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Passion play inspires a continuing debate

The villagers of Oberammergau, Bavaria, first performed their passion play in 1634, a year after a plague epidemic had decimated the population.

They used a simple wooden platform on the outskirts of the village as a stage, and the plague had wrought such havoc that most of the remaining population, it is fairly safe to assume, actually took part on stage.

There will probably not have been much distinction between actors and audience. The only reason why they put



Jesus leaving Mary

on the play was that they had taken an oath to do so if they were to survive the epidemic.

Nowadays Oberammergau, population 5,000, is an Alpine village with a worldwide reputation for the passion play it has performed at regular intervals for over 300 years.

The wooden grandstand has been replaced by a Passion Playhouse with a gigantic stage and a covered auditorium seating more people than the population of the village.

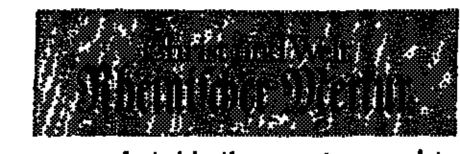
More than 1,000 villagers are on stage. The last passion play season, 1970, comprised roughly 100 performances seen by more than half a million people.

More than 70 per cent of the visitors come from abroad. The village has more or less inevitably become entangled in the complexities of the tourist trade.

Holidaymakers do not just come once every 10 years either. Oberammergau is both a winter and a summer holiday resort, and even in the seasons when the play is not performed they come in droves, partly no doubt because of the village's passion play reputation.

As long as the villagers remember the vow that motivated their forefathers there need be nothing wrong in the business side of the passion play season.

But times change, and with growing popularity the production and the problems it entails change too. Since 1970 there has been a virtually non-stop debate about what form the 1980 passion play should take, and the debate



was conducted in the earnest appropriate to latter-day considerations of cash flow and turnover.

Even so, Cardinal Ratzinger of Munich attended this year's premiere and a mass was held the evening before, testifying to the religious character the passion play is still felt to retain.

The high mass was also attended by high-ranking Protestant and Anglican churchmen.

The cardinal's sermon could only be rated as Church approval of the continued use of the 1860 text, suitably altered in keeping with present-day requirements.

It also was intended to put paid to, or at least to relegate to a level of less immediate urgency, the debate about a contemporary rewrite of the passion play text.

The influx of cars and coaches began early on premiere Sunday morning. Traffic police and aides directed them to their respective parking lots.

The performance began exactly on time, with a midday break as per programme. That evening, when the village was more or less back to normal for a Sunday evening, the organisers breathed a sigh of relief. Everything was working; there were no technical hitches.

The weather was not up to scratch for the premiere. After a clear night the morning temperature was four centigrade, or a little under 40 Fahrenheit.

But it was on with the show regardless as far as the actors on the open-air stage were concerned. Their only protection was their determination to make a success of the play, as it were.

No-one seriously expects amateur theatricals to be absolutely perfect, but what is so fascinating about Oberammergau is the touching piety of the actors, the comprehensible way in which the play is put on and the easy-to-follow text.

Much of the wording is taken straight from the Gospels and has a familiar ring even when it is heard by someone who does not take the Biblical message seriously. Explanations of the link between the plot and the action on the stage also help the audience to appreciate the connection between the Stations of the Cross and references to them in the Old Testament. Historic reality is seen to be the story of salvation. The audience are unlikely to experience the play, which is still performed as written by Josef Alois Daisenberger 120 years ago, as a victory of unswerving traditionalism over progress and innovation.

Triumphant in Jerusalem

But they will probably sense the contradiction between the chorus and the music it uses. Simple choreography and plain clothing are decidedly reminiscent of Ancient Greek drama.

The music, on the other hand, is clearly limited in its range of expression to the short span between the late Baroque era, the Romantic epoch and the Classics.

Rochus Dedler's music was composed in 1810 and is currently played in a 1950 arrangement by Eugen Papst. Few changes have been made to the original; few were possible.

Dedler's music goes its own way, with cheerful, rich and varied melodies and easy rhythms that are a far cry from the appearance, libretto and dramatic function of the choir.

The change of cast, inevitable when the play is only performed every 10 years, makes little difference to the overall impression.

The impressive language and gestures of a Virgin Mary who is, perhaps, older than one might expect are unlikely to influence the decision on whether or not to use the Daisenberger text this time round.

Neither will the lack of dignity or human greatness of a somewhat youthful Jesus and the well-nigh fatalistic acceptance of destiny as the impression conveyed by his intonation.

But the 1980 Oberammergau passion play paves the way for more far-reaching changes than might seem apparent. The Daisenberger text has already been revised in keeping with the tenets of the Second Vatican Council.

The rewrite was also due in part to accusations by the American Jewish Committee that the old text implied collective guilt on the part of the Jewish people in respect of the death of Jesus.

There can be no doubt that Daisenberger, who merely revised an earlier text, made an unwitting concession to the Enlightenment, putting paid to the last vestiges of the medieval mystery play.

In its medieval form the passion play still formed part of the larger view of history as the history of Christian salvation.

The origin and meaning of the Cross were seen as being the guilt-ridden implication of all mankind, with Christ's sacrificial death ensuring salvation.

The historic view of the Biblical ... lost sight of this aspect of the ... It set its sights on identifying a ... party and roundly condemned the ... ocratic leadership of the Jewish ... and the Jewish people as a whole.

The American Jewish Committee, while acknowledging that Oberammergau has tried hard to adapt the Daisenberger text, leaves no doubt that the superficial historic view and its ... Jewish tendencies can only be eradicated by dispensing with the current text.

The Roman Catholic Church ... given its implicit blessing to the Oberammergau revised 1980 version, ... Church can hardly be accused of ... ing to a new and deeper look ... theological message conveyed.

Oberammergau can only hope ... gress in the future by dint of ... forts on the part of both Jewry ... Church.

Georg K...

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 23 May ...)



The Last Supper

(Photos: Sven Simon)

The German Tribune

Hamburg, 15 June 1980
Nineteenth Year - No. 945 - By air

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Mood of realism for Schmidt Moscow visit

Are the Soviet leaders really interested in a constructive East-West dialogue? Are they really prepared to consider a political solution of the Afghanistan problem?

Mr Brezhnev recently reiterated Soviet willingness to do so, but the question is whether he would be prepared to accept a solution involving troop withdrawal.

This will be the proof of the pudding, as Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher see it, when they visit Moscow at the end of the month.

They are keen to reach agreement on a number of points that would help to surmount the current international crisis. The indications now are that the Kremlin would like to come to terms.

But Herr Schmidt and Herr Genscher are not so sanguine as to expect a breakthrough, and they sound a warning note that any such hopes may be sadly dashed.

Unlike President Giscard d'Estaing of France when he conferred with Mr Brezhnev in Warsaw, Chancellor Schmidt expects to be able to fly to Moscow with a broad measure of Western backing.

Intensive consultations over the past few weeks will peak at the Venice international economic summit and the Ankara Nato summit, both this month.

Great store is set by careful preparation with regard to Moscow too. There have been many meetings with East bloc politicians lately and Günther van Well, state secretary at the Bonn Foreign Office, is flying to Moscow in advance of the Chancellor to reconnoitre.

Contrary to a widespread interpretation, Herr Schmidt did not consider M. Giscard d'Estaing's visit to Warsaw as a rival venture.

He felt it was an important preparatory move that supplied him with interesting angles on which to base his approach at the conference table in Moscow.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolai Tikhonov was recently in Bonn for talks and what he had to say gave added weight to the impression that Moscow too is anxious to forestall a failure of the talks between Mr Brezhnev and Herr Schmidt.

So the Chancellor is briefed to discuss a wide range of topics with the Soviet leader and expects the final communique either to include results or to give the West some idea of the shape further progress might take.

The Common Market countries intend to back the Islamic negotiation bid on Afhanistan and the canvass US support for the Islamic countries' initiative, so Herr Schmidt should find it much easier to broach this inevitable issue.

Bonn's view is that a political solution can only be arrived at in the region itself and with the assistance of the non-aligned countries, who will probably be meeting in special session some time this summer.

Iran too will need to be associated with any settlement in neighbouring Afghanistan, so Bonn is hoping for a Soviet comment on the Tehran hostages that will emphasise the common international interest in seeing the hostages freed.

Disarmament and detente issues will, however, be the main items on the Chancellor's agenda:

Medium-range missiles: Talks on limitation of medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe are a key issue for Bonn, which dismisses as untenable the Soviet demand to shelve the Nato decision to develop a new generation of medium-range missiles as a sine qua non of talks.

The Soviet demand, Bonn argues, disregards the fact that the new US missiles will not be available for siting in Western Europe until 1983.

Herr Schmidt intends to propose exploratory talks between Moscow and Washington that will make both sides meet at the conference table without loss of face.

In principle at least, Bonn would have no objection to extension of the agenda to include tactical nuclear weapons with a range of up to 1,000km (625 miles).

European disarmament conference: It is agreed that the Helsinki review conference, due to be held in Madrid this autumn, should pave the way for a first European disarmament conference that would deal with confidence-building measures.

The Chancellor hopes to persuade the Soviet leaders in Moscow to approve the drafting of a specific mandate by the CSCE review conference.

If possible, the terms of reference are to settle differences of opinion on whether or not the area covered by the conference is to include all of European Russia.

Troop cut talks: Western proposals at the Vienna MBFR talks on mutual balanced force reduction in central Europe also await an answer.

Herr Schmidt will be particularly keen to achieve a breakthrough on each side's assessment of the others troop strength, since once this deadlock is broken substantial results are likely as the conference stands.

CSCE conference: The Madrid review conference ought, or so the West feels, to lead to progress in implementation of all sections of the Helsinki Final Act.

Attention is to be concentrated on a handful of promising points in each of the three conference baskets dealing, respectively, with economic, cultural and humanitarian issues.

Bonn would like to see the conference begin with a gathering of Foreign Ministers, the assumption being that governments would then be duty bound to ensure the conference achieved results.

International conference: The Soviet proposal to hold an international conference to review the world's trouble spots acknowledges the principle that detente is indivisible, Bonn feels.

So Bonn endorses the French view that a conference could be held, with a limited number of participants, next year.

But it reckons the Soviet proposal could be combined with the Brandt Commissions' suggestion of holding a

Continued on page 5

Schmidt and Genscher: Operation Ice-breaker (Cartoon: Wolf/Neue Osnabrücker Zeitung)

IN THIS ISSUE

EEC seeks formula for Middle East stance

President Carter has strongly objected to any major move on the Middle East by the European Community. So just before the EEC summit in Venice this month it looked like the Nine were no longer going to frame a fresh declaration on the subject.

Many pundits were expecting the heads of state and government of the Common Market countries to make a major joint statement on the Middle East.

After Mr Carter's objection they seemed more likely to approve what might more accurately be termed an outline of their common viewpoint.

What is more, it could hardly amount to more than the lowest common denominator of individual member-countries' views on the Middle East.

The Nine have long put paid to Britain's view that the EEC ought to concentrate on a revision of UN Resolution No. 242, passed by the Security Council in November 1967 and so far the only basis for Middle East peace bids approved by all UN members.

The resolution states that all countries in the region have a right to territorial integrity and independence, but in the eyes of the Palestinians and Arab states that support them it has a serious shortcoming.

This drawback is that the resolution merely calls for a just settlement of the refugee problem and makes no mention of claims to self-determination.

On the basis of earlier EEC declarations the Arabs felt they had reason to assume that the Nine were considering an of the UN resolution to include the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

This view was evidently shared by President Carter who, at the beginning of this month, announced his intention of vetoing any such draft resolution.

He rightly fears that any step in this direction would jeopardise the progress of the peace talks between Israel and Egypt begun at Camp David.

Now the talks are in deadlock over self-government for the Palestinians the impetus provided by the Camp David talks has in any case petered out.

This has doubtless come as a bitter disappointment to Mr Carter, who will have wanted to bill Camp David as his major foreign policy achievement this election year.

The latest round of unrest in the oc-

Continued on page 2

■ THE EEC

High price to end cash deadlock

By the terms of the Common Market compromise reached by the EEC foreign ministers in Brussels, Britain's net contribution to the EEC this year and next will be DM3.3bn, reduced from DM9.75bn. Next year there will be fresh negotiations for 1982. In return Britain has agreed to a 5 per cent increase in farm price guarantees. Germany, which will be paying the lion's share of the balance, looks like having to increase the prices of spirits and motor fuel to raise the cash. The Bonn cabinet would sooner claim a larger share of VAT revenue, which it shares with the Länder. But the latter are most unlikely to agree.

The Common Market has been saved again, with a last-minute stroke of the pen across a big, fat cheque. But the price was high even though the EEC has been in deadlock for months.

True enough, a further failure in the bid to relieve the financial burden on Britain would have had serious economic, political and psychological repercussions on European integration.

Financially the European Community has led a hand-to-mouth existence since the beginning of 1980 because the European Assembly has rejected its budget, arguing that financing the Common Agricultural Policy is proving too costly.

By autumn at the latest the European Commission in Brussels would have faced financial collapse, with France seeming determined come what may to subsidise its farmers nationally if Britain were to abide by its decision to block the annual round of farm price rises in view of the budget deadlock.

France's going it alone would have led to similar moves by other EEC countries, running the risk of an all-round subsidy war. This could hardly have failed to make its mark on the Common Market, the basis of Western Europe's economic upswing and affluence.

Yet the Brussels compromise on the British budget contribution is no occasion for jubilation. It makes no difference whatever to the problem that gave rise to the problem in the first place, the cost of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

It is virtually grotesque to consider that measures to cope with past sins of omission and commission have been accompanied by an agreement to commit fresh sins.

While the Foreign Ministers of the Nine tried to alleviate the financial consequences of the EEC's failure of a CAP for Britain, the Agriculture Ministers were busy agreeing to the terms of a fresh crop of sins.

Farm price guarantees are to be increased by 5 per cent on average. But a few months ago the European Commission reckoned two to three per cent was the most that could reasonably be considered.

Farmers undeniably have a right to compensation for higher production costs, but there is an even more urgent need for CAP revision to put paid to surplus output and save scarce EEC budget funds.

Exactly the opposite is what has now happened. The production levy on fresh milk surpluses, which was rated the indispensable crux of the European Commission's February CAP price proposals, has been shelved until next year.

Experience with past reform exercises would seem to suggest it is doubtful for the moment, to say the least, whether anything definite will ever come of it.

But the height of indifference towards the EEC's hard-pressed finances must surely have been the new mutton regulations that marked the end of months of squabbles between Britain and France over what the EEC is pleased to call sheep meat.

The new regulations outdo in perfectionism virtually everything Common Market Agriculture Ministers have ever done to regulate the common agricultural market.

There are no prizes for guessing what the consequence will be. In addition to butter, beef and sugar mountains there will soon be a sheep meat mountain caused, no doubt, by higher prices.

Output will be boosted but consumption will decline, while New Zealand, traditionally supplier to the British market, will end up being the loser.

It is hardly surprising that no-one is able any more to estimate how much this policy is going to cost. The European Commission reckons it should be about DM2.75bn — over and above the farm price subsidies budgeted for in February, that is.

The Bonn Finance Ministry, basing its estimate on CAP expenditure so far this year, reckons the extra cost should amount to about DM5bn this year alone.

This figure does not include the cost of the sheep meat regulations, which are sure to amount to several hundred million.

Bonn Agriculture Minister Josef Ertl promptly retorted that these figures were merely the pessimism that one would expect as part of the stock in trade of the Finance Ministry.

Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer's protest against the financial compromise with Britain, which should cost a total



of DM2.6bn extra in 1980, 1981 and 1982, is aimed less at the compromise itself, which was worked out by the Foreign Ministers of the Nine in an all-night session.

He aimed to send a warning shot across the bows of agricultural policymakers. If they carry on as they have been doing, without let or hindrance, they may yet succeed in milking the EEC dry financially.

By the end of next year at the latest the sum total of EEC revenue from tariffs, levies and the Common Market's 1 per cent of national value-added tax revenue will no longer be enough to meet the cost of CAP.

How can they be when the cost of farm subsidies continues to increase at a rate of 20 per cent a year?

This might arguably not be so bad if only subsidies were to offset the difference and bridge Europe's own North-South gap. But there can be no question of this since the costliest subsidies are bagged by large farms north of the Alps that are run with a maximum of machinery.



(Cartoon: Hicks/Die Welt)

Last year Belgium derived most per capita benefit from the EEC agricultural fund, being subsidised to the tune of DM12,000 per farmworker, whereas Italy only managed DM1,300 per head.

A revision of CAP to redirect scarce financial resources to sectors where the financial shortfall of agricultural earnings is greatest in relations to income trends as a whole has long been envisaged.

But so far it has always come to grief on resistance from those members of the European Community who derive most benefit from the present state of affairs.

Not even the British, who might be presumed most interested in a change of course, are prepared to take up cudgels for a thorough revision of CAP, with the result that Herr Ertl was able to triumphantly proclaim:

"We have seen that no-one is keen to rock the CAP boat after all."

The EEC accession of Greece, Portugal and Spain will entail fresh financial claims on the European Community that will, for the most part, need to be met via CAP.

Items such as the fruit marketing bonus, wine distillation subsidies and olive oil processing grants are, in all but name, aid the existing EEC countries have promised the three Mediterranean countries to promote security and stability in the Mediterranean region.

Terms will need to be negotiated by the end of next year, by which time agreement with Britain over financial compromise terms for 1982 will be due.

The budget clash that has paralysed the Common Market over the past few months will then recur with even greater intensity.

Bonn, which for some time has noted with dismay that it is increasingly being isolated on account of financial demands by other members of the Common Market, is bound to fear that it will be subjected to even greater pressure next time round.

Besides, it has domestic pressure to bear in mind. When EEC funds currently available are exhausted, member-countries will have to remit more than one per cent of their VAT revenue to Brussels.

In Germany (and elsewhere too, for that matter) national budgets will be the sole losers. This extra sacrifice can only be considered in conjunction with CAP reforms, so the next Common Market clash can only be a matter of time.

Hans-Hagen Bremer

(Die Zeit, 6 June 1980)

Middle East

Continued from page 1

cupied West Bank region, where [illegible] settlers are a constant thorn in [illegible] Arabs' flesh, is a further contrib[illegible] towards the fomenting of conflict [illegible] region.

So it is hardly surprising that the [illegible] President is anything but keen to [illegible] European Middle East settlement [illegible] present.

For its part Europe has no wi[illegible] disrupt the difficult progress tow[illegible] peace. It insists that all it wants to [illegible] lend assistance (although Israel has [illegible] since declined the offer).

Israel's Foreign Minister Yitzhak [illegible]mir reckons past EEC resolutions on [illegible] Middle East were motivated mainly [illegible] the desire to ensure long-term [illegible] supplies.

Prime Minister Menachem Begin [illegible] called on the European Community [illegible] read the PLO Charter, which calls [illegible] the destruction of Israel.

At the time of writing the [illegible] seemed likely to reiterate at Venice [illegible] stand on the Middle East they had [illegible] in London in June 1977.

At the 1977 meeting of the Europ[illegible] Council, or EEC summit, the heads [illegible] state and government of the Nine [illegible]comed all peace bids based on UN [illegible] solution No. 242 and stipulated a n[illegible]ber of other demands.

The acquisition of territory by the [illegible] of force was declared impermissible [illegible]raeli occupation of arab territory was [illegible] be ended.

The right of all states to exist wi[illegible] safe and recognised borders was to [illegible] acknowledged, as were the legitim[illegible] rights of the Palestinians in drafti[illegible] just and lasting peace settlement.

A few lines later mention was [illegible] in a subordinate clause of the need to consider a homeland for the Palestin[illegible] people.

Two years later, in the declaration [illegible] the Middle East by a conference of E[illegible] Foreign Ministers in June 1979, t[illegible] point was singled out for inclusion [illegible] the final item in the catalogue of C[illegible]mon Market demands.

So the essentials of the Nine's re[illegible]tion of the European Community [illegible] point were already apparent before [illegible] leaders met in Venice.

They were likely to add fresh c[illegible]cism of Israeli settlement policy [illegible] response to Israel's plan to fully [illegible]grate Jerusalem, including the [illegible] Jordanian east of the city, in the [illegible] of Israel.

The Arab world had [illegible] tions of the declaration [illegible] the EEC summit, but [illegible] these expectations [illegible] fulfilled. [illegible]

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, [illegible])

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

The Opposition draws up shadow team

Nine spokesmen on specific issues are to be named as part of the Opposition CDU/CSU's campaign group.

These nine will be part of a wider party of about 20 earmarked as possible postholders should the Opposition's candidate for Chancellor, Franz Josef Strauss, win the election.

However any deductions from this list about the possible composition of a cabinet would be premature, as Herr Strauss does not want to be tied until after the poll.

Strauss' CSU wanted a larger team that would be representative of the wide range of opinion in the CDU/CSU.

But the CDU's preference for a smaller group has won the day.

The nine spokesmen will be headed by Schleswig-Holstein's Prime Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg who said to have agreed to serve in a Strauss cabinet as deputy chancellor. He would also hold the Economic Affairs and Finance portfolios.

The Schleswig-Holstein CDU is soon to decide whether it will "release" Stoltenberg and let him go to Bonn. A party spokesman said that no obstacles would be put in his way.

CDU Chairman Helmut Kohl will not be a cabinet member should Strauss win the election.

According to Bonn circles, Kohl intends to remain the CDU floor leader in the Bundestag. But he will play a major role together with Stoltenberg in the campaign team.

Among the other potential holders of portfolios are the chairman of the Hesse CDU, Alfred Dregger; the defence expert Manfred Wörner; the CSU floor leader in the Bundestag, Friedrich Zimmermann; the chairman of the CDU Women's Association, Helga Wex; Lower Saxony's Finance Minister Walther Leisler Kiep; and Bavaria's Education Minister, Professor Hans Maier.

It is still unknown whether CDU Secretary-General Heiner Geissler or the chairman of the CDU Social Affairs Committees, Norbert Blüm, will be nominated as the ninth member of this group. Both would be available as speakers on social affairs. The CDU apparently favours Blüm.

In addition to this hard-core team, the *Länder* Primer Ministers Ernst Albrecht, Bernhard Vogel, Lothar Späth and Werner Zeyer are to emphasise the CDU's ability to form a government.

The team could also include North Rhine-Westphalia's top candidate Rainer Barzel and Mayors Walter Wallmann (Frankfurt) and Manfred Rommel (Stuttgart).

CDU/CSU circles stressed recently that a compromise had been found on the number of people on this team. While Kohl favoured a small group, Strauss wanted as large a team as possible that would be representative of the wide range available to the CDU/CSU.

No cabinet posts will be assigned even within the hard-core group. Only general areas will be assigned in keeping with the political work of the group members to date.

Though all these politicians are available as ministers, any conclusion as to a shadow cabinet is premature, because Strauss refuses to be pinned down on decisions he wants to make after the elections.

Reuter/dpa

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 4 June 1980)

Nuclear-waste protest is cleared without tears

A movement calling itself "Free Republic Wendland" which assembled over the site of a proposed nuclear waste dump at Gorleben has been cleared by police after four and a half weeks. The anti-nuclear protestors offered only passive resistance to the end.

There was no bloodshed, and teargas was not used. Police even went so far as to thank the demonstrators.

Before the police moved in, the worst was feared because of previous "battles" which have erupted at other sites involved with nuclear power.

Politicians, police and non-violent protesters feared that the clearing of the Lüchow-Dannenberg borehole (which is to establish the site's suitability as a nuclear waste dump), where anti-nukes had established their "Free Republic Wendland", would develop into a "civil war".

The non-violent Lüchow-Dannenberg anti-nukes thus for the second time (after their peaceful protest march to Hanover in March) forced politicians and the public to think again constructively about their cause.

The criticism and the arguments of the demonstrators have been given new weight.

Prime Minister Ernst Albrecht (Lower Saxony) will now have to honour his promise that no nuclear waste processing installation will be built at Gorleben.

Bonn Interior Minister Gerhart Baum will also have to make good his promise that the anti-nukes will be given full information on the results of the test drilling.

This is a clear success for the squatters even if their village has been razed.

The threat by representatives of the National Federation of Citizens' Initiatives for Environmental Protection (BBU) who recently told Baum and his Lower Saxony opposite number Egbert Möcklinghoff that 20,000 demonstrators would gather in Gorleben has meanwhile fizzled.

The Lüchow-Dannenberg anti-nukes stuck to their principle of non-violent protest, and rabble rousers stood no chance.

Otto Ehlers

(Nordwest Zeitung, 5 June 1980)

Amnesty hits at isolation of prisoners

Amnesty International says solitary confinement for convicted terrorists is used too freely in German prisons.

The first reaction to the censure is anger.

The judiciary of the Federal Republic of Germany lumped together with Moscow's Gulag Archipelago and Pinochet's torturers in Chile?

The anger is justified, and the harsh criticism levelled at Germany by the human rights organisation calls for a rebuttal.

The censure places this country, which belongs to the very few in the world that can lay claim to having largely implemented human rights, in the dock.

It casts a wrong light on this country — especially considering the matters this organisation deals with in the normal course.

Bonn is no case for Amnesty International.

The second reaction is introspection, for the integrity of the critic is beyond question. Unlike the contention by terrorists and their helpers concerning "isolation torture", the censure by A.I. must be taken seriously; and the Justice Ministries of the *Länder* have done exactly that.

They wrote to London saying that whenever terrorists are isolated this is done to prevent the abuse of contact possibilities (an abuse for which there is conclusive evidence and which has been practised frequently).

In plain language: the people of this country have a right to safeguards that will prevent new murders being organised in prison cells.

The ministers did not deny that this is achieved at the expense of the prisoner's health.

There is probably no getting away from the fact that the strain imposed by imprisonment itself is further aggravated by the isolation with its severe psychological and physical effects.

Does a prison sentence include such additional hardships? Certainly not automatically.

For the German judiciary this can only mean that it must view any isolation of prisoners as a special case and that its necessity must be reviewed time and again and the isolation lifted as soon as no further danger is to be anticipated.

Joachim Westhoff

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 28 May 1980)

All three major parties have problems with their junior offshoots.

The young CDU/CSU members have put specific demands to the senior body; the young socialists have critically distanced themselves from the official SPD policy and the young democrats are having trouble identifying with the FDP platform with a clear conscience.

There are only a few months until the election in October, and activity is developing feverishly.

Specialised congresses of various kinds [illegible] being held to mobilise interest.

The Christian Democrats made every [illegible]rt to close ranks at their Berlin [illegible]

[illegible] Democrats will do the same [illegible] Freiburg [illegible]. They will be followed by the Social Democrats who will [illegible]t in Essen. [illegible]

[illegible] things are taking their accustomed [illegible]ocratic course.

But the smoothness of this ritual can[illegible] cover the fact that all parties have [illegible]blems with the young.

The young are unimpressed by appeals [illegible] make use of their voting rights. Neither the Young Socialists nor the Young Union not the young democrats (the young members organisations of the major parties) make any bones about this. Though all of them assure their respective parties of their solidarity and [illegible]ugh they campaign for them, they do [illegible] beat about the bush when it comes [illegible] expressing their reservations about [illegible] parent parties.

They go through the necessary [illegible]tions but are not particularly passion[illegible] in supporting the party.

Parties face problem of junior rebels

Considering that even card-carrying young voters who have access to in-depth information are hard to rally, how much harder must it be to motivate those without party ties?

The young voter at large asks many questions that irk the established parties: what is gained by electing a new parliament and appointing a government every four years?

They voice their doubts about our political institutions, the elected parliament and the government controlled by it, and they doubt the independence of the judiciary.

Everybody talks about parliamentary democracy and out democratic Constitution, they argue, but isn't all this only on paper?

Is it not just fiction? And is it also not fiction that all state power is exercised by the people through the votes they cast?

The older generation see things in a different light because they have a basis of comparison: for them the worst of democracies is still better than the most perfect of dictatorships.

Those who have experienced and survived a terror regime do not expect paradise on earth from a parliamentary democracy. But they know that it is the lesser evil when it comes to organising community life, controlling power and securing personal freedoms.

Though there is little pomp and ceremony in a democracy and day-to-day life is rather drab and though a pluralistic society has to compromise constantly, this functionalism nevertheless makes for a high degree of internal stability.

It is difficult to convey these advantages and disadvantages to the younger generation. Perhaps even impossible.

There can be no getting away from the fact that historic experience cannot be passed on to the next generation.

As a result, we should not sermonise to the young voters. Instead, we should show understanding for the fact that the young citizen would like to be committed to a cause instead of opting for the lesser evil.

One cannot ask of young people that they realise the necessity of certain things and expect them to accept it at face value and be happy about it.

There are many reasons why our young people cannot identify themselves with the political parties. But it would get us nowhere if we tried to instil a political consciousness at any cost.

Though there can be no total consensus, much would be gained if the parties would devote more thought to how they can improve their own image by setting an example through democracy within the party and thus improve the credibility of the parliamentary system.

If they did this, the young generation might find it much easier to tolerate compromises as well.

Gerhard Ziegler

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 2 June 1980)

■ REFUGEES

Attempt to get to nub of asylum problem as the ranks swell

There are 14m people in the world fleeing from wars, political persecution or bitter poverty. They are rarely welcome with open arms when they arrive in destination countries. A recent conference on the problems of refugees in Bergneustadt, near Cologne, underlined that even the rich countries of the West prefer to deter refugees than discuss measures for accepting and integrating them.

Cologne has more applicants for asylum than any other city in West Germany. The authorities there believe that the limit of the tolerable will soon be reached.

A Cologne city council representative told the conference in Bergneustadt: "We are up to our necks. If things go on this way, we will just have to close our doors, as the city of Essen did recently. It just said it would not accept any more applicants for asylum."

The figures for Cologne are even worse than those of Frankfurt, which has a large foreign contingent. There are 4,000 applicants for asylum in Cologne, 1,500 of them seeking employment. They have not yet found their own accommodation, and temporary accommodation is very expensive: 142 people are living in hotels at the expense of the Cologne Social Office.

But it is not just the Social Office and the employment offices that are groaning under the burden of applications; the courts, too, are hopelessly overburdened; 450 applications for asylum per month are submitted to the Cologne Administrative Court.

Not only Cologne but all of West Germany and West Europe have been facing a huge increase in the number of applications for political asylum in recent years. The reasons for this are obvious.

The UN High Commissioner told the conference, organised by the Friedrich Ebert and Otto Benecke foundations, that there are now 14m refugees throughout the world. They are fleeing from war, racial or political persecution and often they are driven abroad by bitter poverty.

In Somalia today, one in three people is a refugee from Ethiopia. Like many countries in this region of Africa, Somalia is not in a position to help these people from its own resources.

The country's level of social and economic development is so low that it cannot cope with additional burdens.

Only considerably financial aid and well-coordinated integration programmes taking the native populations also into account can provide these states with an incentive to allow refugees to settle within their borders.

This is precisely what is lacking — not only in the view of the UN High Commissar. Euro-MP Katharine Focke complained that no one yet had a global conception for dealing with this problem and that it was high time one was worked out.

In the course clear that became increasingly clear that there was more interest in keeping out potential applicants for asylum than in helping them.

So it was not surprising that the dominant theme became the "flood" of applicants for political asylum into West Germany.

The conference degenerated into a series of complaints about the influx.

Wolfgang Ziedler, vice-president of the Federal Constitutional Court, blamed the Basic Law, which granted all victims of political persecution the right of asylum in West Germany, for the present disastrous situation.

In the past there was no controversy in this country about this generous regulation, because the only applicants were those from the East Bloc countries, to whom this country felt committed.

From 1973 on, many Chileans came here, fleeing the right-wing dictatorship. In many cases, they were greeted with suspicion.

The situation of the Vietnamese boat people last year was different. They were helped by worldwide sympathy, in West Germany and elsewhere.

Since then the stream of refugees has increased and large numbers from Pakistan, Turkey, Eritrea and Afghanistan have been applying for political asylum. Some *Land* governments, Baden-Württemberg in particular, have begun arguing about quotas in this election year.

Since then fear of being overrun by foreigners and of German culture being undermined has gripped many minds.

Any means seemed to be justified to deter Turks in particular. The Bavarians have started making noises about special border camps for applicants.

The fathers of the constitution granted the right to political asylum in the Basic Law. Is this now too heavy a burden? Zeidler, at any rate, expressed considerable reservations about this right in view of the present situation.

He argued for thorough rethinking on the regulations on political asylum. After all, he argued, the fathers of the constitution were thinking of individual persecution and not the persecution of masses as a result of social exploitation or totalitarian repression.

Zeidler's ideas provided the fuel for fierce controversy, dominating the discussion.

Bonn Interior Minister Baum also presented his immediate programme of reform of West German law on political asylum.

The European experts at Bergneustadt did not agree with all the measures presently being discussed by West German politicians. They did not, however, rule out that the law on political asylum might be being abused.

Most of this suspicion is directed at the Turks. Of the 38,000 applicants for political asylum in this country in the first four months of this year, 18,000 came from Turkey.

Rolf Meinecke (SPD), chairman of the Bundestag Committee on Humanitarian Questions, therefore belive that the regulations on the granting of political asylum will have to be tightened.

"If we want to help the genuine victims of political persecution throughout the world, then we will have to close our doors on those who, with the Basic Law under their arm, are trying to get round the ban on the recruitment of foreign workers by claiming to be political refugees."

One aim is to speed up recognition procedures, so that the applicant for political asylum does not have to wait six or seven years, as is often the case, before a decision on his application is made.

The Turks who come here to escape unemployment rather than persecution at home often find this period of six or seven years quite long enough to earn good money and then go home.

The conference experts at Bergneustadt recommended that in future recognition procedures and decisions should be combined with the granting of a work permit or with deportation. This would considerably reduce the length of the procedure.

They experts emphatically rejected CDU/CSU proposals for "border judges" who would deal summarily with applications for political asylum. They condemned it as inhumane and not constitutional.

Most of the experts did not agree either with the Interior Minister's proposal to deter economically-motivated applicants by withdrawing their work permits.

This, they argued, would place an intolerable burden on the social security offices, who would have to assist with welfare payments and pay accomodation until a final decision was made.

Astrid Wir.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 4 June 1980)

Group urges a delay in work permits

A working group has recommended that applicants for political asylum in the Federal Republic of Germany should not be allowed a work permit while recognition proceedings are taking place.

The group, set up by Bonn and the *Länder*, says however that work permits should be issued after two years to prevent a huge increase in social security payments.

Hearings for recognition often last for more than two years.

The working party, set up after a meeting of *Land* prime ministers to discuss the flood of political asylum applicants, has released the first discussions of the working groups.

An overall report is due this month.

Much of the initiative for the study came from the Baden-Württemberg Land government.

The greatest problems seem to have been in working group 1, which dealt with the question of competence, the implementation of measures to ensure the political asylum law was not being misused, quotas, the joining of asylum and deportation procedures and the question of visas.

The government is still sceptical about the Baden-Württemberg proposals for speeding up procedures and more effectively implementing regulations.

One of the most important Baden-Württemberg proposals was for legal measures to prevent or reduce the abuse of the law by applicants whose motives were economic rather than political.

Administrative regulations on the Aliens' Law allow border authorities to send back foreigners whose applications are patently unfounded.

This ruling only binds the administrative authorities, not the courts. This is why the Baden-Württemberg government insists on definite regulations on this point. Its wants applicants for asylum to be turned back if:

- They have already been recognised as having the right to political asylum in another country;
- If have already been given protection against persecution in another country (e.g. Eritreans in Somalia);
- If they clearly have no grounds for an applications;
- If the application for asylum is clearly a misuse of the law.

Bonn is clearly against any extension of rights to turn back applicants at the borders. Only Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria agree with the proposal to appoint "border judges" to deal with these cases.

This proposal, it is argued, would give judges the right to reject applications on the above-mentioned grounds. It would considerably reduce the burden on the administrative courts and the hard-pressed cities and local councils. The applicant would soon find out what his position was.

At present, the institution of the judge sitting alone does not exist in the administrative court system. To introduce such judges would be an innovation.

There are also doubts about whether the judge sitting alone would be able to fulfil the requirements of art. 19, para 4 of the Basic Law on legal representation, especially as judges would hardly be able to find interpreters quickly enough.

The working party also discussed the possibility of combining the Law on Asylum and the Aliens' Law. Bonn has not made its mind up on this, but Hesse and Berlin have already stated their position.

Opinions also differ on whether appeals should be allowed against judgements in asylum proceedings.

According to the first law on the speeding up of asylum proceedings, there is no right of appeal if any application has been unanimously dismissed as unfounded.

It was expected that 80 per cent of cases would end with such a ruling, but this has not happened. The percentage of such rulings is 40 per cent, and even this is considered inadequate as the number of applications is rising rapidly.

A disadvantage of this regulation is also that the number of appeals to the Federal Administrative Court has also risen significantly.

The second working group discussed assembly camps, extra money and manpower for courts and authorities and a system of distributing refugees among the Länder.

As for assembly camps, Baden-Württemberg, Baden, Hesse and Bavaria — unlike the Bonn government — felt that keeping applicants in assembly camps was an appropriate means of speeding up recognition proceedings and damming the flood of "economic"

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■ PEOPLE IN POLITICS

Baum strengthens hand through controversy

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Bonn Interior Minister Gerhart Baum (FDP) is determined to see his main political proposals implemented, despite stiff resistance from the *Länder*, especially those ruled by the CDU.

He says that these conflicts are in the nature of things and would have occurred regardless of who was Interior Minister.

Baum means to maintain the law on political asylum despite the increasing numbers of phoney applicants.

He intends to press ahead with plans to make local councils pay for pumping effluent into rivers, despite the whines of some councils who are reluctant to pay.

He wants to stop the bitter wrangling about the German National Foundation and to introduce a bureaucracy-intensive registration law with built-in guarantees against the abuse of computerised data.

Baum explained that all these measures were more difficult to force through because of the confict of interests with the *Länder*.

In comparison, general consensus was easy enough to obtain when the security services had to be strengthened.

The list of issues where the Bonn government and the Länder are in dispute also include approval procedures for coal power stations, approval procedures for the re-opening of atomic power stations, and the traffic noise law. Even this is not exhaustive.

Baum does not believe that there is a general tendency among the Länder to obstruct Bonn policies because "the Länder, too, have definite interests in reaching agreement with Bonn."

Baum said that the "highly political" conference of ministers of the interior and other consultations with Land prime ministers were just one side of the coin. The other side was close and calm cooperation in many fields, but not so much publicity was given to this.

In discussions on accident prevention in factories handling dangerous substances, on labour laws, in wage negotiations and in the border commission the atmosphere, Baum said, was businesslike to agreeable.

Despite the loud controversy on the effluent levy and the law of asylum, Baum rejects the warnings in Bonn that the Länder are developing an allergy to initiatives from the Bonn Ministry of the Interior.

He sees no danger at the end of this parliament of going down in the record books as a man who introduced many good and reasonable proposals but was unable to implement them.

Baum, who succeeded Werner Maihofer in the job, has been successful at the national level and has tried to be with the Länder.

When he argued with Finance Minister Matthöfer about the amount of aid to Vietnam or the anti-drugs campaign, this was a dispute among brothers.There was also coolness between Baum and Chancellor Schmidt about Baum's pronouncements on the Olympic boycott, but this was soon smoothed over. Schmidt objected more to the premature publication of Baum's views than the views themselves.

Baum has maintained his unswerving approach in his dealings with the Länder. "I don't like over-friendliness. I want people to discuss the issues with me."

Baum believes that this approach is possible in his dealings with the Länder, and that his dispute with Lower Saxony Prime Minister Albrecht about guidelines for the disposal of waste from nuclear power stations proves this.

Baum recounted with a touch of pride how after tough negotiations and, finally, an agreement, Albrecht had told him: "It is a pleasure to argue with you."

In public, things look very different, especially when CDU Land prime ministers are dealing with the Bonn Minister of the Interor. In the Bundesrat debate on the effluent levy, Schleswig-Holstein Prime Minister Stoltenberg complained bitterly: "In my long period of political activity I have seen many ministers of the interior come and go. But I have never met one who in practically every area of his responsibility pursued such policies of confrontation, hostility and arrogance towards the Länder as you."

Assisted by his Baden-Württemberg colleague Späth, Stoltenberg said that Baum's refusal to make changes in the effluent levy law would mean that the number of laws rejected by the Bundesrat would now increase.

He added that "we will now have to choose the course of harder confrontation adopted by you and the spokesmen of the Bonn government."

The Länder, and indeed some of his colleagues, have been piqued at the skill with which Baum has won wide media support for his initiatives.

Baum had often made sure that their reaction would be positive before the civil servants in the Land ministries had decided on how to respond to his initiatives.

The Minister of the Interior cultivates an intensive dialogue with the media and assures himself of the approval of scientists, the socially relvant groups, and of coalition MPs before publicly presenting his proposals.

He then presents the Länder with a fait accompli, to their intense annoyance. Bavarian Interior Minister Tandler has complained about precisely this.

Tandler found out from the newspapers that Baum had threatened to impose governmental force according to Article 84 of the constitution if Tandler did not reverse the illegal regulations in Bavaria enabling the Land to turn back refugees — including some from the East Blocat its borders.

Tandler, in his blunt manner, said that Baum had yet again revealed his "shameless" policies of forcing the CDU to adopt the Bonn line altogether or to risk that nothing whatever would be done.

Alarmed at the possible erosion of the law on asylum, Baum recently rejected the CDU/CSU's proposals for reform before they have even been made public. "If the CDU had announced its programme at six in the morning, Baum would have got up at five," a Bonn wit commented.

In his two-year period of office Baum has risked more than any previous Interior Minister and, to all appearances at least, won practically every time.

Baum has got his way on the destruction of files in the C.I.D. and of lists in the border police. He has put tougher constitutional limits on unlawful collusions between the security services.

Thanks to him, the Office for the Protection of the Constitution is not automatically consulted on the political past of applicants for the civil service (including the teaching profession).



Gerhart Baum
(Photo: GLOBUS-Press)

Baum has come out of the far from easy controversy on all these issues strengthened. Why should he not continue these policies? he asks.

The Land prime ministers can do nothing against him as long as there is no error in his ministry which can be directly attributed to him personally.

Anyone wishing to get rid of him ought to remember that he is an "accepted factor" in the FDP.

The truth of this is underlined by the fact that he got more votes than party leader and Foreign Minister Genscher in the elections for the North Rhine-Westphalia list for the Bundestag.

Baum has been able to live with the suspicion with which many of his colleagues regarded him in the Bonn cabinet.

And he hopes to be able to survive the suspicion of the CDU/CSU Land prime ministers. Their attempts to decry Baum as the first ever left-wing Minister of the Interior have met with no response from the public.

Heinz-Joachim Melder

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 5 June 1980)

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refugees. Baden-Württemberg could point to its own experiences in this respect.

The working group proposed unanimously that the staff of the National Refugees' Office should be increased so that decisions on refugee's applications could as a rule be made within three months.

However, there are limits to what is possible here. Justice Minister Eyrich (Baden-Württemberg) said that if this were to be done the number of administrative courts dealing with asylum applications, would have to be almost doubled. This would not be possible as it would cost DM16m.

The third working group discussed work permits for applicants, social assistance, reintegration and development aid. Their proposals on these issues were controversial.

It is known that Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria have called for a general ban on work permits for applicants for political asylum. This would put a stop to those who used the law on asylum as a means of getting round the ban on the recruitment of foreign workers.

This recruitment ban, imposed by the government in 1973, will have to be maintained if the government is to integrate and provide work for the foreigners now living in this country and especially for the over 400,000 young foreigners.

The number of unemployed foreigners is already increasing and in the greater Stuttgart area applicants for political asylum are finding jobs increasingly difficult to get.

The fact that applicants for political asylum are more privileged than other foreigners in that they are automatically granted work permits is highly problematic.

Applicants for asylum and their families automatically receive work permits, whereas relatives of other foreigners have to wait; wives cannot receive a permit until four years residence in this country, children of working age not until two years residence.

Applicants for asylum do not, on the other hand, get the same priority in getting jobs as German workers and foreign workers regarded as having equal rights. And after five years of work applicants for asylum have an absolute right to a work permit, even if their application for asylum has not yet been decided on.

The working group therefore recommends that applicants for asylum should not get a work permit while recognition proceedings are going on.

This recommendation, it seems, was unanimously accepted, though with some reservations by Bonn ministries. To prevent a huge increase in social welfare payments, it was recommended that applicants for asylum should not receive work permits until after two years' residence.

Werner Birkenmaier

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 30 May 1980)

Moscow visit

Continued from page 1

representative international summit conference next year to discuss narrowing the gap between North and South.

North-South issues will be high on the agenda in Moscow, with Herr Schmidt briefing the Soviet leaders on the Venice international economic summit, which will just have discussed the subject.

Energy will be a major issue in both instances, with Mr Brezhnev advocating an East-West energy grid and Bonn proposing a ministerial conference to conclude discussion of the idea by the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in Geneva.

Then there is the United Nations plan to hold a worldwide dialogue on international energy problems in August. This dialogue can only achieve satisfactory results provided the East bloc industrialised states agree to cooperate.

Thus there is an abundance of issues and an abundance of opportunities for the Soviet leaders to demonstrate their desire to cooperate on specific subjects.

Yet even with full backing from the West the Chancellor's visit remains a risky enterprise. So is there any point in it? Considering the objectives the answer must surely be in the affirmative.

Wolf J. Bell

(General-Anzeiger, 4 June 1980)

■ MANAGEMENT

Tax demands revive popularity of the fringe benefit

Salary alone no longer motivates as it used to. But on the other hand, if the salary is too low there is no motivation at all.

The problem is that salary increases alone don't help. Anybody who does a bit of figuring knows that little remains of a rise once the tax man has taken his bite.

A 10 per cent rise for a married man earning DM70,000 a year in 1979 would only have given him an increase of 3 per cent.

The gross incomes of executive staff have about doubled in the past 10 years though the buying power has risen by only 30 per cent. The way out of this dilemma is more perks.

These include company cars, company pension schemes, a company apartment and similar fringe benefits.

The company car is particularly in favour and also serves to improve the image. In the 1960s, companies grew tired of the constant bickering among the executive staff over what car they should get.

So they simply cut down on company cars. But now these sought-after extras are in again, promoted by rising fuel costs.

According to a study by the Kienbaum Management Consultancy Company, more than 90 per cent of board members and managing directors now drive a company car (five years ago it was 80 per cent). Such a car has thus become standard for top executives.

But the echelon below the top level (department heads and district managers) is also being treated generously.

The proportion with a company car has risen from 25 to 35 per cent in the past five years. And even in the level below, the quota has risen from 10 to 20 per cent during the same period.

Sales managers are given priority: 60 per cent of them and 40 per cent of the export and marketing managers now drive such a car — an increase of 15 per cent in both groups.

What matters in deciding who is to have a company car is the hierarchic order in the company rather than the function. This also governs the size of the car.

In typical cases, managers are entitled to cars of 2500 cc or more (usually a Mercedes). Those immediately below them warrant cars of 2000 to 2500 cc (Mercedes or BMW).

The level below must make do with smaller models, mostly Audis.

The fact that the person thus favoured must pay tax on the perk — one per cent of the purchase price — does not detract from the value of this fringe benefit.

Depending on the type of car and the mileage covered on private business, the financial advantage ranges between DM500 and DM1,000 a month — a pretty nice salary increase which is equally attractive for employee and employer.

Another perk is more of a long-term nature. Company pensions are gaining in popularity even faster than company cars.

Ninety per cent of Germany's managerial staff are entitled to company pensions on top of pensions under the social security scheme. Ten years ago, there were only 70 per cent in this group.

Considering that such pensions are extremely costly for the employer, it is amazing that they are handled so generously.

Although the 1974 Pensions Act strictly regulates these benefits, the stringent legislation has not dampened this trend.

Naturally, the quality of these pensions varies widely. Twenty-five per cent of managerial staff are entitled to so-called non-dynamic pensions, i.e. a fixed sum averaging DM10,000 a year. This amount is of course eroded by inflation during the waiting time.

Others are entitled to a lump sum averaging DM65,000 — enough for a trip around the world but not enough to live on the interest from this capital.

Still, more than half of these pension schemes take into account that the standard of living of the beneficiary will be rising pending retirement. In these schemes the company pension is pegged to the last income (excluding profit sharing and other bonuses).

On average, the person gets 70 per cent of his last basic salary — but this includes the social security pension.

Excluding social security pensions, executives get between 30 and 45 per cent.

But it takes a long time before this becomes reality. Generally, an employee must have been with the company for 30 years. Otherwise, he gets either nothing or only a pro rata part of the pension.

Even so, we still do not have British conditions in this country. There, executives are very reluctant to accept a rise. They prefer a house or an apartment, a gardener, a vacation trip or an account on the Continent. It is unlikely that this trend will spread to Germany.

Apart from company cars and pension schemes there are a number of other attractive fringe benefits from which the tax man cannot take too large a bite: interest-free or low-interest credit is usually a very effective way of giving an executive extra pay without tax and thus making the recipient identify even more with the company.

Material advantages derived from loans of up to DM5,000 are completely tax-free. The same applies to loans [illegible] per cent or more. Loans for home bu[illegible]ing are also tax-free. This offers a w[illegible] scope of providing the staff mem[illegible] with additional perks.

Accident insurance is another fa[illegible]rite. It affords protection from imm[illegible] hardship that could arise in an other[illegible] low-risk job — especially in view of [illegible] many business trips executives hav[illegible] take. This is particularly so with you[illegible] employees whose risk of becom[illegible] disabled through illness is very low. [illegible] the other hand, they run a high ris[illegible] disability due to traffic accidents and [illegible]cidents during sporting activities. [illegible] over, young executives stand to be[illegible] little from the social security insura[illegible]

Most of these policies cover death a[illegible] disability. The ratio of 1:2 for death [illegible] disability is optimal and the one [illegible] widely used. The insured amount in [illegible] of death is usually one annual inc[illegible] and twice this for disability.

An illness extending over more [illegible] six weeks, when salary payments [illegible] can also lead to severe hardship. [illegible] normal sickness benefits with [illegible] monthly maximum are far from e[illegible] to maintain the accustomed standa[illegible] living. Managers and board mem[illegible] usually get the difference between [illegible] last rate of pay and the sickness ben[illegible] for one year. On the lower level, [illegible] ranges between three and 12 months.

Christian N[illegible]

(Die Zeit, 30 May 19[illegible])

'Disadvantages' of a formal education

People with just an elementary school education progress furthest in their jobs, although their salaries rise more slowly than university educated managerial staff.

This is the paradoxical finding of a study by Professor Eberhard Witte of Munich University's Institute for Organisation.

The steep career line of the relatively poorly educated could be because they have a talent which is as much in demand as it is rare among the managerial echelon: the gift to lead and motivate subordinates.

A Swiss researcher put it in a somewhat exaggerated form when he said that every employee had a right to be led.

Professor Witte is not at all surprised by such a statement. Having evaluated close to 2,500 questionnaires sent to managerial staff in all branches of business last summer (this included banks and insurance companies) he came across some critical remarks that culminated in the statement that we might overestimate the advantages of good education and training, and overlook the natural gift of leadership.

This was reflected in the ideas expressed in the evaluation of new blood among the managerial staff. These managers-to-be are frequently seen as lacking the courage to motivate.

Another shortcoming expressed in the questionnaires is that the young blood among the managerial staff do not identify with the principles and objectives of their company.

On the other hand, those who have already reached their aims within the company are different. In fact, Professor Witte speaks of an "extremely positive picture".

Almost every other executive questioned (those with annual incomes over DM50,000) considers himself part of management although, as the study stresses, they are actually ordinary employees.

Curiously, only 11 per cent felt that they were "just employees"; 41 per cent felt no close ties towards either of the two groups.

As a basis of comparison, Professor Witte cites a recent study on managerial staff (as defined by German labour relations legislation and the Co-determination Act). Here, 55 per cent consider themselves part of management and only 7 per cent part of the rest of the staff.

There is nothing to indicate that the managerial staff is drifting away from the very top executive brass. This is surprising inasmuch as many of those questioned suspect that they are left in the lurch at times by their superiors.

Especially in negotiations with the works council, they say, the Board does not sufficiently safeguard the interests of higher-ranking employees.

The Board also came under censure for another reason. The respondents said that it concentrated too much on the opposite number in collective bargaining which sapped its strength.

Professor Witte points out that sceptical observers have therefore concluded that the Board has too little time and energy to formulate and pursue the actual company objectives.

This is borne out by the fact that one in four of the managerial staff questioned has only vague ideas of these objectives and considers the strategy of top management vague.

These people say that there is too little discussion on the objectives and that if this were remedied relations with the top management would improve.

There is yet another area where the upper echelon consider themselves placed at a disadvantage. The respondents said that their salaries were ri[illegible] more slowly than those of other e[illegible]ployees whose pay was subject to co[illegible]tive bargaining. As a result, salaries, [illegible] say, are being levelled off.

Those who stand little hope of cli[illegible]ing any further up the career ladde[illegible] particularly pessimistic. Some two-[illegible] of this group hold that their [illegible] incomes are rising at a lesser [illegible] the pay of other employees.

But when it comes to net pay [illegible] the number of disgruntled respond[illegible] is a high as 90 per cent. This vie[illegible] shared even by the more optimi[illegible] people who are on their way up the [illegible]der: 71 per cent of this group hold [illegible] view.

It is not coincidental that Profe[illegible] Witte's study goes into these prob[illegible] in such detail. Most managerial [illegible] want to make a career for themselve[illegible] the sole purpose of making as [illegible] money as possible. For them, influe[illegible] is secondary.

Only 10 per cent consider job sec[illegible] important and a mere 8 per cent [illegible] better old age benefits.

Attracted by money, the ma[illegible] level is prepared to put up with [illegible] hardship. All work long [illegible] employees paid [illegible] higher the position the long[illegible] working hours. Even [illegible] the avera[illegible] 50 hours a week is conspicuously [illegible]

Though those aspiring to the [illegible] positions are prepared to work hard [illegible] will also readily go to another com[illegible] if they feel that career opportunities [illegible] better there. If necessary, they will [illegible] relocate or embark on an entirely [illegible] ent career.

Sixty four per cent of those who [illegible] that they could do better and that [illegible] are suited to bigger jobs will [illegible] this procedure.

The group under review in Pro[illegible] Witte's study had an average annu[illegible] come of DM90,000; 14 per cent [illegible] as much as DM110,000. Full of se[illegible] fidence, they claim that company [illegible] are largely due to their work.

Theodor [illegible]

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 24 Ma[illegible])

■ THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

Changing market requirements hit Opel production plants

More than 4,000 workers are to be laid off from the Opel car company's plant at Rüsselsheim, Frankfurt, over the next few months.

The primary reason is flagging demand for the medium-sized Rekord model.

On the other hand, Opel's plant at Bochum cannot produce enough Kadetts for the dealers.

Rudolf Müller, deputy chairman of Opel's Works Council, says that the patents company, General Motors, is preparing to produce a world car to be made in Brazil, Japan, Australia and Germany.

"But Opel cannot even shift a model from Bochum to Rüsselsheim," he says.

Rigid production structures are forcing reduced production of not only the Rekord, but the Senator and Monza as well.

Rüsselsheim has been on short shift since November.

Premature retirement and severance pay for those willing to resign are now being negotiated with the Works Council.

But it is not only lack of demand for medium-sized cars that has forced Opel to contemplate such measures. Apart from the rigid production structure, the Rüsselsheim management, kept on a short leash by the parent company in Detroit, has pursued a wrong model and personnel policy.

Other companies have learned more from the 1974 automobile crisis, when production in Germany fell by more than 800,000 units to 2.8 million cars and the industry had to lay off 30,000.

As a result, a drop in demand for the Audi 100 has not affected employment at Volkswagen: at its Ingolstadt division Audi has within a short time switched its production to the smaller Audi 80, and the Audi 80 production in the Emden plant has been cut back in favour of the VW Passat.

In Brussels there are fewer Passats and more Golfs coming off the assembly lines (Golf is the competitor of the Kadett).

The Cologne Ford plant, also plagued by diminishing demand for medium-[illegible] cars, has not had to lay off anybo[illegible] so far.

[illegible] Ford has introduced short [illegible] several cases since October [illegible] the Cologne plant is now building [illegible] Fiesta, which has hitherto [illegible] Saarlouis plant. These [illegible] Cologne in addi[illegible] models.

Opel, on the [illegible] needed four [illegible] to shift the [illegible] the Bochum plant back to Rüsselsheim although it was the latter plant that had previously built the car.

Neither Ford nor Opel are providing [illegible] customer who wants a small and [illegible]nomical car with a full range. The Cologners have only their old Escort with which to compete with the Golf and the Kadett.

The Escort's successor is not to be [illegible]sented to the public until the autumn. [illegible] Opel has nothing smaller than the [illegible]dett and must therefore leave this [illegible]rket entirely to the VW Polo, the [illegible] Fiesta and imported cars from [illegible]nce, Japan and Italy.

As a result, Opel and Ford have not [illegible] been hit by the general drop in demand but are also losing market shares to their competitors.

Müller is also pessimistic about Opel's model policy, saying: "After our Kadett destroyed the market opportunities of our Ascona, 1981 will see a new Ascona that will defeat the Rekord and, finally, in 1982, a small car will hit the Kadett."

The German subsidiaries of General Motors and Ford have also been hit by the crises that have plagued their parent companies for the past few years. Detroit pinned its hopes on big cars for too long and is now faced with mammoth losses.

Huge investment programmes of the American automobile industry are now to adapt their model programmes to market requirements within a few years.

Their German subsidiaries have had to contribute their share to these investment programmes. Opel transferred DM1.4bn to the USA between 1976 and 1978, and Ford handed over as much as DM1.8bn.

Daimler-Benz, on the other hand, with sales more than twice those of Opel and Ford, came out of the 1974 slump unscathed. But, unlike Ford and Opel, it paid its shareholders only some DM700m in dividends.

The German subsidiaries of the American companies are now short of money to come up with enough small models fast enough.

As far back as 1975, Opel had already developed a small car. But when demand for the medium-sized Rekord rose, the managment decided to build more Rekords instead because of better profits.

The success of the Rekord in the mid-1970s was the reason for a disastrous mistake at Opel: since medium-sized cars were selling again the management in Rüsselsheim decided that buyer attitudes had remained unchanged. The drop in sales for this type of medium-sized car has now hit the leading maker in that category particularly hard.

Volkswagen, on the other hand, with its wide range of small cars, is much less affected.

Makers of expensive cars are also unconcerned: Daimler-Benz, BMW and — to some extent — Porsche have no redundancy problems. In fact, they are not even contemplating short-shift work.

Unlike Opel, Volkswagen has also pursued a better personnel policy. VW Chairman Toni Schmücker decided after the 1974 shock to forgo some business rather than adapt the payroll to peak demand.

A comparison of the payroll of the VW plant in Wolfsburg with Opel's Rüsselsheim plant is revealing: VW had a payroll of 56,500 in Wolfsburg in 1973.

By 1975 it had trimmed its labour force by almost 20 per cent. These jobs have now been reinstated.

Opel, on the other hand, employed 38,000 in Rüsselsheim in 1973. By 1975 this had been trimmed by 30 per cent, and today the payroll is again 15 per cent more than it was before the crisis.

The *Frankfurter Rundschau* now accuses the Opel management of having degraded its staff to mere pawns.

Says Opel spokesman Hellmut-Peter Clauss: "The hiring at that time helped to improve the situation on the labour market but no-one has publicly lauded us for this."

But Daimler-Benz and VW are indeed being lauded because even in today's situation they are hiring. Daimler-Benz wants to hire 4,000 and VW 3,000 new workers. BMW also has some vacancies.

Opel, on the other hand, is no longer making headlines with its hiring of the past but with the firing of today.

The management has also come under criticism for having permitted itself to be lulled into a feeling of safety.

Only last February, Opel chief executive James F. Waters said in connection with rumours about a shift of production to Kaiserslautern: "We never planned to cut down on jobs in Rüsselsheim or, indeed, to lay anybody off."

But even now, nobody speaks of "dismissal." The management stresses that the envisaged premature retirements and the quitting of some workers against severance pay are voluntary.

With this action, Opel is shifting at least part of the cost of reducing its payroll to the public: in the case of premature retirement the company would dismiss workers aged 59 and over.

They would receive unemployment benefits for a year plus an allowance from Opel before actually going into premature retirement on a pension.

The Opel Works Council, which has been warning of a slump for some years, now fears that things will be even worse for Opel. The investment plans of General Motors in Europe seem to indicate that the parent company wants to shift production from Germany to Spain and Austria, says Herr Müller.

The smallest model is to be built in Spain and, unlike Ford, Opel also has trouble with its exports. Ford shipped almost 80,000 Fiestas to the United States in 1979 while Opel shipped not a single car to America.

Instead, a car similar to the Kadett was exported to the United States by the Japanese Isuzu Company, with which General Motors has a cooperation agreement.

Opel's Waters keeps stressing that General Motors' biggest subsidiary will remain in Germany. Investments for Opel, he says, are also larger than for any other GM subsidiary in Europe.

In April, Mr Waters said in *Automobil Revue* that the investment programme for the period 1977 to 1982, which was made public two years ago, would be increased from DM5bn to DM6bn.

Notwithstanding the bleak position at present, Mr Watrs consoles and encourages his people with the outlook for the future.

"The automobile has reached a degree of importance which will remain undiminished in the years to come despite temporary energy shortages," he says.

Richard Gaul

(Die Zeit, 6 June 1980)

Daimler-Benz boom leaves cash for investment

Daimler-Benz had its best year ever last year. And this year is likely to be equally good.

The earning power of the company, Europe's largest commercial vehicle producer, was such that it pud DM2bn into general investments during the year and another DM1bn into research and development.

In the next four years, the company intends to invest DM10bn. Its 180,000 staff members world-wide (140,000 in Germany) and the 27,000 suppliers hope that these investments will safeguard their jobs and their businesses.

"Especially in times when the general market development is subject to considerable fluctuation, the structure of our company with its two pillars and its broadly spread risks stands on a sound foundation," says board chairman Gerhard Prinz.

"It is this on which our performance and the faith that we enjoy rests. As a result, we have enough courage to invest in the future of the automobile and of our company."

The company can thus be seen as a "model of German possibilities" in a time when problems in all quarters frighten the public.

But this optimism also has another side because it partly rests on a vicious circle.

The automobile industry must prepare for major change. The limitations in the raw materials supply and energy as well as environmental protection place high demands on the industry and its financial strength.

Dr Prinz: "But even so, I am convinced that, notwithstanding incalculable difficulties, the auto industry will continue to play a major role in the development of the world economy — if for no other reason because redundancies in this sector cannot be absorbed by any other product or any other branch of industry."

This simply means that the automobile industry must not be permitted to cut back on staff. This industry and its product have become an end in themselves.

All of which demonstrates the power which the automobile concerns, backed by the employment argument, have over state and society when it comes to implementing company objectives.

What is worrisome here is that society barely permits any alternative development and that it is pinned down to a specific course in matters of transport, energy and the environment.

The employment interest is a strong common argument, but this does not mean that business and public interests always coincide.

Georg Heller

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 1 June 1980)

THE ENVIRONMENT

Waste dumping transforms North Sea into giant garbage tip

Greenpeace demonstrators on board rubber dinghies in Rotterdam spent three days trying to prevent ships that dump toxic chemical waste in the North Sea for companies such as Bayer Chemicals of Leverkusen, near Cologne, from setting sail. The dinghy blockade was abandoned but the demonstrators succeeded in drawing the attention of a wider public to the deliberate pollution of a sea that was once rich in fish stocks.

Red sky at night over the North Sea might lead the unsuspecting holidaymaker taking an evening stroll to think how wonderful the view is and look forward to fine weather the next day.

But the red glow on the horizon could be man-made and come from one of the garbage incinerator ships at work *off the Dutch and West German coast.*

Every year a fleet of incinerator ships with furnaces glowing at 1,200°C burn 100,000 tonnes of toxic industrial waste.

This is a drop in the ocean compared with the amount that is pumped straight into the North Sea. Over the past decade governments have approved waste disposal that has transformed the sea into a gigantic garbage tip.

Take, for instance, the acid effluent *on board the ships the Greenpeace* volunteers demonstrated against in Rotterdam. Three quarters of a million tonnes are pumped into the sea 12 miles northwest of Heligoland every year.

It would take 650 fully-laden freight trains to ship this quantity by rail, and twice as much again is pumped into the North Sea 20 miles out from the Hook of Holland.

The customers are, for the most part, a handful of German chemicals manufacturers, according to the Federal En*vironment Agency, in West Berlin,* and the Rijkswaterstaat, or marine and waterways authority, in The Hague.

They are Bayer and Kronos-Titan of Leverkusen and Hamburg and Pigment-Chemie of Homberg on the lower reaches of the Rhine. Dutch companies account for a mere 10 per cent of the total.

Titanium dioxide is a waste product of the manufacturing process of artificial whiteners for toothpaste and detergent. It makes up the bulk of the effluent dumped off Heligoland and about a third of the waste pumped into the North Sea off the Hook.

Diluted sulphuric acid accounts for much of the remainder, but the effluent also contains traces of chromium, lead, copper, zinc, mercury and cadmium.

These heavy metals are all high on the black list of prohibited substances in *the prevention of marine pollution* agreement signed by countries next to the North Sea.

They are so highly toxic that they ought not to find their way into the seawater in any form, but there is a loophole that gives the black list a distinctly grey look.

They may be dumped at sea providing they constitute no more than traces in the waste matter as a whole. Yet when traces dumped over the past decade are added together, the total will surely be *several hundred thousand tonnes.*

Chemical waste is not the whole story, either. There is local authority sewage, which is usually pumped straight into the sea without being purified.

Hamburg, which may be blameless on this count, is an equally culpable pollution offender, since it dumps out at sea the waste that accumulates at its water purification plant.

Near the Elbe I lightship, well out into the North Sea from the Elbe estuary, Hamburg pumps 50 tonnes of sewage sludge a day into the seawater. It is half organic, half inorganic matter, and very hard to digest.

Henk van der Pols of Rotterdam municipal authority recently announced that 20 million cubic metres of sludge and heavy metals (not to mention oil waste) a year needed dredging in the port of Rotterdam.

They woulds of course, have to be dumped into the North Sea and they too are only part of the story.

Everything toxic that is pumped into the Elbe, Weser, Ems, Rhine, Meuse and *Scheldt, not to mention their tributaries,* ends up sooner or later in the North Sea.

In the Rhine alone the sum total of chemicals in solution measured in a single month amounted to 236,411 tonnes, or 210 freight trainloads.

What is more, despite all protestations an increase in the count of heavy metals, especially copper and cadmium, and of chlorobenzene was recorded in the course of 1979.

In comparison with these substances pumped into the sea with the approval



of government and local authorities the amounts illegally pumped into the North Sea by pollution offenders is virtually insignificant.

For 11 years or so enormous amounts of waste have been dumped at sea with official approval, and the ecological balance of the North Sea is beginning to show signs of strain.

The coastal and inland fisheries research department of the Federal Fishery Research Institute, Hamburg, has sent research vessels into the North Sea to investigate pollution on three occasions.

Last year the *Anton Dohrn* set sail for Heligoland and the North Sea waters off the West German coast that were felt most likely to be polluted.

The mission's brief was to ascertain whether there was any connection between the frequency of certain fish diseases and water pollution in the area probed, and the Hamburg research vessel came up with headline-hitting evidence.

Off Heligoland and in the Elbe estuary area 31 varieties of fish were caught and examined. They included 30,000 cod, 35,000 dab and 40,000 whitings.

For comparison samples of the same fish were caught in cleaner waters outside the 60-mile zone. Fish diseases were conclusively shown to be more frequent closer to the shore than further out.

Plaice, cod, dab, sole and turbot were found to suffer from all manner of unappetising complaints, such as fin rot, open sores, skin that looks like cauliflower and other deformations. Some were covered in tumours.

The Dutch too have begun to learn the consequences of marine waste disposal, which include serious pollution of their 10-mile coastal zone.

Even before the *Greenpeace* protest the Dutch authorities announced details of a ban on further dumping.

Alarm has now been voiced by the German Hydrographical Institute, Hamburg, which is responsible for issuing permits to pump acid effluent into the German Bight area of the North Sea.

Permits issued 'only in public interest'

Permits are now only issued "in the public interest," says Herr Ruhl, spokesman for the institute. The same is true in Holland.

But the public interest is involved as a rule as soon as the company applying for permission argues that otherwise it might have to dismiss several thousand members of its work force.

Another *factor is cost relativity.* Titanium dioxide waste could be cut back substantially by introducing new production techniques and reprocessing waste. This is a fact that *experts, be they* in Berlin or Leverkusen, would not for a moment deny.

Cost is the problem. The Federal Environment Agency, which has a say in permit processing, is required to give the go-ahead whenever the cost of alternative waste disposal would be "out of all proportion."

What this means in practice is that if an applicant claims the cost of alternative disposal would be eight times that of dumping the waste out at sea, he can be *sure of approval.*

Besides, as Professor Offhaus of the Berlin agency points out: "Ought the authorities to impose restrictions on home industry when all around are as bad?"

This is an oblique reference to Britain, which pumps at least 10 times as much sewage sludge into the North Sea as do Continental countries.

On June 26 the environmental commission set up by the ... Ministry will be ... report on North Sea ... problems.

In it the commission argues that present ... titanium dioxide ... *be avoided.*

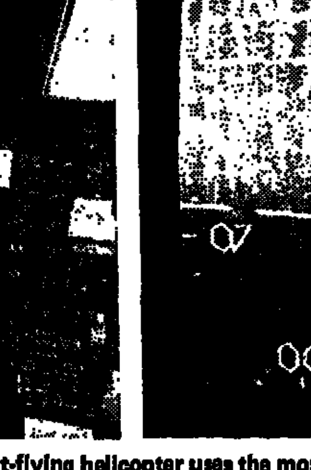
But German and Dutch experts agree that a fundamental solution to the problem can only be arrived at by means of international agreements.

Heinz Oestmann, an Elbe fisherman, is not prepared to wait until *international* agreement has been reached.

He has taken the government to court and is suing it for damages at a Hamburg administrative tribunal. Oestmann claims conclusive evidence is available to prove that his catch is down and the fish caught are of poorer quality because of effluent disposal for which the government has given permission.

Jürgen Wessel...

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 31 May ...)



The seeing eye: pilot in night-flying helicopter uses the monitor screen as his eyes. (Photo: DFVLR)

AEROSPACE

Round-the-clock, all-weather helicopter comes off the drawing boards

Brunswick aerospace research staff are experimenting with instruments to enable helicopters to fly round the clock and in all weathers.

The versatile and invaluable 'chopper' can already take off and land vertically and fly sideways and backwards, but only in daylight and internationally approved visibility.

Visual flight rules stipulate, for instance, that visibility must be at least *800 metres and cloud level not lower* than 300 metres.

So at present helicopters may only fly in fine weather between sunrise and sunset, which is a great drawback for flying doctor services and the like.

About *one road accident in three oc*curs during the hours of darkness. In *many* cases a helicopter rescue dash could well make the difference between life and death.

A device that will, it is hoped, enable helicopter pilots to 'see' the terrain they are flying over in the dark is the electro-optical sensor.

It has been developed as an environmental sensor display unit at the flight control department of the Aerospace Research Institute in Brunswick.

"Our objective," explains Brunswick aerospace engineer Helmut Stein, "was to ensure safe helicopter flying even in poor visibility and without the aid of *navigational and flight control* ground stations."

Choppers had to be able to find their targets, land and take off with accident victims and rush them to hospital at hedge-hopping altitudes of 250 feet or less and across unfamiliar and *difficult* terrain.

At such low altitudes and in such environmental circumstances flying solely by instruments was no longer possible. For orientation and navigation the hedge-hopping pilot needed a clear picture of the terrain in the dark.

Devices that served the purpose as sensors included infrared cameras and TV cameras that used vestigial light at night.

In Brunswick flight trials the environmental sensor was simulated using a TV camera slung to the underside of the cockpit, while the pilot handled the controls with his natural view obscured.

All he *had to go on was the picture* on his monitor screen. But his co-pilot had unrestricted vision and was on standby to intervene and take over control if danger were to threaten.

The monitor screen picture of the terrain as it was traversed was found not to be enough to pilot the helicopter satisfactorily. Extra instruments remained indispensable.

"To relieve the burden on the pilot imposed by looking first at the screen, then at various dials and controls," says Herr Stein, "it is advisable to flash readings on to the monitor screen."

Essential readings should include artificial horizon, course, speed, engine performance, radar altitude reading, ver*tical speed and camera direction.* Board measuring equipment operating independently of ground control would record readings, relay them to the flight computer and flash them on to the monitor screen.

The monitor picture was to be taped to keep a check on test flights, which were aimed at improving the field of vision, data indication, camera direction and control.

Camera control was to be improved with special consideration of hedge-hopping and run-in and landing in level and hilly terrain.

Lt-Col. Rudolf Schmauder of 64 Helicopter Transport Squadron, Ahlhorn, which supplied the trial chopper, was one of the test pilots.

After more than 200 flights and landings at heights of as little as 10 metres where decision-taking was concerned, not to mention a variety of wind conditions, he had this to report:

"As in visual flight the run-in is easier against the wind because it takes longer, allowing more time for corrections.

"In the final third of the approach run close attention must be paid to speed above ground, since zero on the dial may mean the helicopter is actually flying in reverse.

"If the run-in is in a side wind the pilot will continually be trying to hold his landing point in dead centre, but the bid should be abandoned and a more suitable approach direction chosen if the side wind is too strong.

"As this will not always be feasible, a special device was incorporated in the display to give early warning of deviation from the run-in course intended."

The 'look-ahead' camera proved particularly useful in trials. In visual flight *on a cornering course the pilot can see* not only along his own longitudinal axis but also inside the bend, as it were.

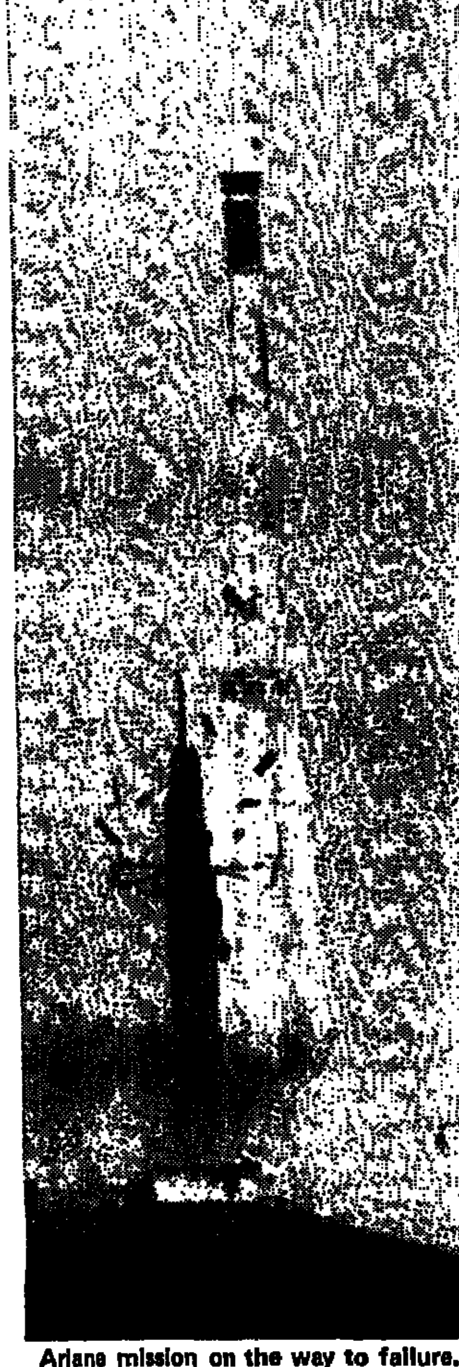
The camera is programmed to tilt inside the bend and provide this same information as it would automatically be gleaned by the naked eye.

Luftwaffe test pilots also outlined difficulties encountered when losing orientation over unfamiliar terrain.

A second camera and second monitor screen proved useful, with the lens aimed vertically groundwards, in regaining direction, but other solutions to the problem seem more suitable.

They may, for instance, include 360° cameras or special flight procedures involving a return to the last known point en route, but further trials will doubtless indicate a solution. *Hans Joachim Holtz*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 29 May 1980)



Ariane mission on the way to failure. (Photo: dpa)

Rocket project goes on despite failure

When the second stage of the European launcher rocket Ariane failed to ignite on 23 May and the mission was aborted it was curtains for Firewheel and Oscar 9, two promising space experiments.

But the failure need not mark the end of the Ariane programme. It was the second of four space shots from the French launching site at Kourou in Guyana, and only three need to succeed for the project to be rated a success.

It may be some time before data are evaluated and the precise cause of the failure is known, but so far the following is thought to have happened.

Seven seconds after take-off pressure fell in one of the four engines in the rocket's first stage. A minute after take-off the engine failed.

After 100 seconds the other three engines showed signs of trouble and performance decline, whereupon the second stage no longer ignited.

The rocket was given orders to self-destruct. It exploded and the pieces fell into the Atlantic about 25 km from their point of departure.

But although the Ariane project will continue, Fireball and Oscar 9 were specially designed for the second launching and are not to be repeated.

Continued on page 10

■ ARCHAEOLOGY

Digs go on in Syria as Middle East tensions put a halt elsewhere

Western archaeological digs have almost stopped in the Middle East because of tension in the region.

No excavations are taking place in Lebanon, Iraq or Yemen.

However in Syria, the cultural authorities are quite happy to maintain their smooth-running relationship with archaeologists from the capitalist countries.

In Syria, the aim of the scientists is to investigate the so far untouched sites between Chabur and Orontes, Amanus and the south east desert frontier.

Byblos and Ugarit on the coast have already been excavated, as have Alalach and Mari inland. Recent finds in Chuera, Habuba and Ebla have already cast new light on the period between 4000 and 3000 B.C. All this goes to show that Ancient Syria was the home of independent cultures.

The Syrian authorities have been extremely cooperative in giving guarantees and granting permission to excavate, and so many archaeologists have turned their backs on less hospitable countries and come to Damascus.

Important archaeological news has also come from Aleppo, the metropolis of the North with 650,000 inhabitants: apart from their very successful work in Ebla, the Italians want to excavate in the Tell Mischrife area north east of Homs. This is the ancient Qatna, which was an important state in the first half of the second *millenium before Christ and is mentioned in Hammurabi's political correspondence.*

And in the north east of Syria, not far from Quamishliye, archaeologists have now identified the long-sought Shubat-Enlil, once the new residence of the ancient Assyrian king, Shamshi-Adad I.

The industry of the archaeologists is matched by that of the museums. In September 1979 an exhibition was held in Aleppo on the finds in Tell Mardich, once known as Ebla. At this exhibition tribute was also paid to the work of West German archaeologists at Tell Chuera, about 180 kilometres north east of Aleppo.

Here, near the Turkish border, Anton Moortgat, founder of the study of Near East archaeology and first professor of this subject in Berlin, and his staff, conducted successful excavations from 1958 to 1976.

Among his staff were his wife, herself the holder of a doctorate in the subject, and Professor Barthel Hrouda, who now holds a chair of archaeology in Munich.

When Professor Moortgat died in 1977, his wife, Ursula Moortgat-Correns, continued the excavations in Chuera. The Syrian ancient history authorities invited Frau Moortgat-Correns to exhibit her team's most striking finds at the Aleppo exhibition. The rest of the finds are now in Damascus.

Frau Moortgat, the photographer and draughtswoman of the team, accepted the offer in November 1979. The visitor will find here a well-arranged collection of about 60 objects, all from the middle of the third millenium B.C.

One of the most striking of the ceramics is a high stand — similar objects have been found *frequently* — on which a large round bowl could easily be placed; a bellied jug with a slender neck is identical to a jug of the same date found in Ebla.

The exhibition also contains almost a dozen terra cottas. The purpose to which they were put is a matter of some controversy. There is, for example, a narrow statuette of a woman.

Her hair is parted, her arms are mere stumps and her face is strangely contorted, like similar objects found in Tell Halaf and Ur; there are many of these "horror heads" found on ancient Syrian sites. Their purpose was probably to ward off devils.

Also frequently found on these sites are animal figures (asses, bears, foxes, hens and, in larger format, an ostrich). These figures were probably simply toys.

There is also a tiny two-wheeled terra cotta chariot which may belong to the figure of horses on display in the same glass case. Several such small chariot models were found at Tell Chuera, some with four wheels. Similar figures have also been found in Babylonian Kish and in Diyala.

If they are not merely toys, they could be offerings of the drivers or owners of the chariots and horses. This was an era in which chariots and draughts animals were a technical innocation.

The stamps and seals on display are far more ambitious works of art. There are 10 such exhibits at the exhibition, either originals or copies.

They are engraved with Sumerian and *with local, north Mesopotamian-Syrian motifs.* The odd one out is a small, circular stamp seal of serpentine engraved on both sides: of more recent origin (Mitannic?) it represents a roaring lion with bristling mane and an ibex, both leaping. On the other side, though very faded, are four birds flying. The engraved gems on display show the stone-cutters of upper Belich as masters of their art.

Perhaps the most striking example here is a small cylindrical etui with lengthwise grooves and holes in the lid which was probably used as a rouge-pot.

We can only guess from the abovementioned statuette of a woman what the ladies of Chuera, who were experts in the art of cosmetics, looked like: slim, narrow-hipped, with elegant hairstyles. We know more about the men. To the surprise of the archaeologists, small alabaster fragments of five typically Sumerian praying figures were discovered in The ruins of the Small Anten Temple in 1963/64.

They had not expected to find these objects so far north. Three statuettes could be almost completely put back together and are now among the most important finds in the entire excavation.

One of them, 26cm tall, is the finest in its glass case. As in the centre of ancient Mesopotamian culture almost 1000 kms away, these holy statuettes are represented with the typical hairstyle and long square-cut beard of the Sumerian princes.

The hands are folded in prayer over the naked chest and the over-large eyes stare devotedly at the god in whose sanctuary they were permanently kept to intercede for those who had offered them.

Here we encounter the spirit of the Sumerians, but the exhibition also contains much that is characteristically ancient Assyrian. The most striking example of this is to be found in the Damascus Museum. It is a cult relief discovered in 1974 and unfortunately heavily incrusted, representing seven women sitting next to one another holding young animals or children in their laps — a hitherto unknown sacred composition which can certainly be regarded as the original creation of a native sculptor.

The extensive Chuera ruins have not yet revealed all their secrets and undoubtedly contain much more information about the development and exchange of culture in the northern part of the "fruitful crescent" in the third millenium.

The excavations stopped in 1976, mainly because the remote site is particularly susceptible to political disturbances.

It is to be hoped that excavations on this site can resume soon.

Hartmut Schmökel

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 24 May 1980)

Rocket project goes on

Continued from page 9

Firewheel formed part of an experiment by plasma physicists from America, Britain, Canada and West Germany. It was to create two enormous clouds of metal steam in space for measurement purposes.

Oscar 9 was to have helped radio hams all over the world, enabling them to span the globe on VHF, or FM, and they will particulary regret its passing.

Development and construction of Oscar 9 were largely underwritten by the idealism and personal dedication of amateur radio enthusiasts from several countries over a period of more than five years.

Hams from Germany, America, Hungary and Japan, led by Marburg amateur radio enthusiasts Dr Karl Meinzer and Werner Haas, were in charge of the project.

Several members of the German group had gone without holidays for years, spending every free minute of the day helping to develop the satellite.

That was why Oscar 9 was such remarkably good value at a mere DM300,000 or so. Satellites normally cost millions to research and develop.

The cash was largely raised by Amsat, the amateur radio clubs. Individual hams supplied the man-hours free of charge. Industrial donors supplied, for the most part, free equipment to cut costs.

Esa, the European Space Agency, had not insisted on fees being paid for the launching of either Firewheel or Oscar, but it was a one-off offer, and radio amateurs cannot afford to buy a rocket of their own.

Besides, no-one can say whether German amateurs, for instance, would be prepared to contribute the cash and effort again. So the future of amateur radio satellites is uncertain for the time being.

Wolfgang Brauer

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 31 May 1980)



The Geissenklösterle figure, 33,000 years old.

(Photo: Landesdenkmalamt Baden-W

Prehistoric cav... yields an ancient trove

The oldest known work of art in Europe, if not the world, is a figure of a man found in the Swabian Alb.

Approximately 33,000 years old, it was found recently by archaeologists in Geissenklöterle near Blaubeuren in the Aach Valley, one of the most important prehistoric caves. Excavation director Joachim Hahn of the Tübingen Prehistoric History Department and Sieg... Schieck of the Tübingen Conserv... Department described the find at a ... conference.

Until now, the famous Vogel... figures from the Lohnetal near ... have been considered the oldest ... of art in Europe. They are ... representing animals and are reckoned to be 30,000 to 32,000 years old.

The Geissenklösterle figure is of ... man and is a thousand years older. The only other older works of art have been found in Africa, and even they are ... slightly older.

The Geissenklösterle figure is 38 ... limetres high and made of mammoth ivory. Radio-carbon tests were used to date it. It represents a man with a ... trunk, a short, round head and, between the short, stumpy legs, an ... penis.

Excavation director Hahn regards the raised arms, familiar from the stone ... images of Altamira, as representing a praying attitude. This would make the figure the oldest one of man praying ... a priest. Notches have been made ... the back and on the sides of the figure — perhaps a calendar of the cycle ... the moon. The figure was probably ... as an amulet.

The Geissenklösterle, one of five ... historic caves in the Aachtal, ... the richest sources of early ... finds (C.30,000 to 40,000 B.C.) ... tic digging has been going on ... 1973.

There was a settlement of ... homo sapiens here and several ... lar finds have been made on the ... the most striking to date being a ... ture of a mammoth (1974) and ... figure of a dead mammoth (19..) ...

Bone finds have shown that ... bernated in the cave. Men used ... in the warm period for short ... ionly, probably as a shelter in bad ... ther.

The excavations on the site will ... ably last for decades.

Konrad Rumbaur

(Hannoversche Allgemeine ...)

THE CINEMA

'Busch Report' gets to German reality

Vorwärts

Niklaus Schilling's latest film, *Der Willi Busch Report,* tells us more ...ut the division of German than ...y a would-be profound leading ar...

...is no coincidence that the film was ...ected by a Swiss — what German director could treat this vexed subject dispassionately and with the necessary distance?

Modern German film finds it though to deal with a past which is not its own but the past of the German cinema. The ...al myths of the thirties and early forties, whether melodramatic or comic, have been poisoned by the way they were misused politically.

Schilling is one of the few directors prepared to go over similar ground. And he can afford to, because he is Swiss. His earlier films also often dealt with West German reality. *Willi Busch Report* deals with another repressed reality, the border between the two German states. It is also a film the two German states. It is also a film about a reality which arises from pure imagination and nonetheless remains reality.

Willi Busch is of course short for Wilhelm Busch and, like his famous namesake, Willi writes doggerel such as "I feel so good if now and then/ I can a pretty poem pen."

And Willi Busch needs to be able to *invent* a pleasanter reality because his circumstances are far from pleasant. Willi Busch (along with his mostly drunk and careworn sister Adelheid) is the owner and only reporter of a local paper, the *Werra Post,* which has a circulation of just under one thousand.

The border dividing Germany in two also deprived Willi of most of his subscribers, literally taking the ground from under the paper's feet. Most of its readers live in East Germany.

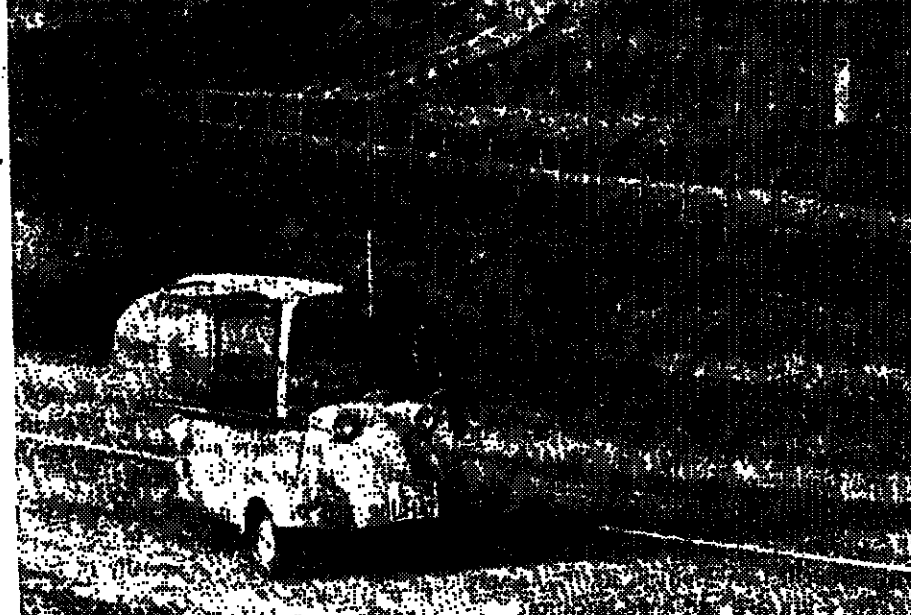
Where nothing else will help, perhaps a little imagination will — and this can be taken literally at a border where even a great deal of imagination has achieved very little.

Willi writes a Goebbels report — after all, Goebbels was once made an honorary citizen of Friedheim.

Then he wrecks telephone boxes at night, writing an exclusive on the vandalism in his own paper the next day. But curculation only rises appreciably when he discovers a little girl who prophesied the reunification of Germany to the sheep in the meadows — and the sheep apparently did not object.

After this, the media descend on Friedheim, pilgrims roll in their coachloads and when a reporter from the Munich magazine *Ring* dies in the arms of Helga, a girl who is free with her favours, Willi has a great idea: he says the reporter, and competitor, was a spy. So he files another exclusive report in the *Werra Post.*

What follows defies description. The peaceful streets of Friedheim become as busy as Düsseldorf's Königsstrasse, Frankfurt's Kaiserstrasse and Berlin's Kurfürstendamm together. The German Intelligence Service is on the spot, so too is television; and two more spies die. Willi Busch feels persecuted and threatened and gives vent to his anger at the border with the GDR.



Busch pushes his three-wheel Messerschmitt car. The East German border is in the background. (Photo: VISUM-Filmproduktion)

At the end it is impossible to tell what is imagination and what is reality: they are both reality. The division of Germany is overcome at the border, of all places, and there is a reunification of German sensibilities and emotional exuberance which has absolutely nothing to do with the age of rationalism and realism.

Busch is a protagonist of German dividedness, and Schilling makes him credible. (He is not entirely unfamiliar with the problem himself, having been born in Basle and lived in Munich for many years).

Willi drives a bizarre three wheeler which looks like a pilot's cockpit on wheels — and indeed it was built by Messerschmitt in the fifties, when they were not allowed to build bombers or fightor jets.

Schilling inserts many such familiar signs of German identity into the film — from the dreamy little olde world village with its half-timbered houses to pub culture, the German club mentality and church-steeple politics and, of course, the voluntary fire brigade, of which Willi is naturally a member.

Or the idyll of the countryside which ends abruptly at the border just as the quiet of the countryside is interrupted by the strident drone of helicopter blades.

The camera is continually panning to over the border. The border is no dream. But the border, too, is blurred, affected by the general mood of the film which, with its bizarre stories and shapes and its camera technique, seems to leave us in the air.

The pictures, almost all taken using the steadicam system, seem to float. They help carry the filmgoer's imagination over limits — political, aesthetic and rational — which we have imposed on ourselves.

Peter W. Jansen

(Vorwärts, 29 May 1980)

Demand for dubbing leads to a thriving industry

The preference of German filmgoers and TV watchers for foreign films to be dubbed rather than sub-titled has led to the development of a thriving dubbing industry.

One of the leading dubbing studios is Berliner Synchron. Its owner and director Wenzel Lüdecke quotes Oscar Wilde, who once remarked that the English and the Americans had much in common, but not their language.

"Wilde meant this ironically, but for us it is a reality. And I have made a virtue of this necessity."

Berlin is the ideal place to run a dubbing studio because it has the largest reservoir of actors and the best "voices", German actors who speak the dubbed parts. Lüdecke's studio specialises in American films.

However, there are those who dislike dubbing, mainly on the grounds that films are often completely changed.

They point out that in Switzerland and other countries, sub-titles are used.

Lüdecke's answer: "We have to accept the realities and act accordingly. Cinemagoers — and especially the young people who are the vast majority here — want to see foreign films dubbed into German, even though many of them understand English.

"There are special showings in the original language in Hamburg but these are only popular because Hamburg is very anglophile. If cinemagoers want German versions of foreign films — and it has been shown that they do — then it is out duty give them the best possible version."



Wenzel Lüdecke (Photo: Die Welt)

Lüdecke is right. German-language versions of foreign films have become better and better in recent years. However there has of late been a tendency for a lot of German slang to creep in ...

"I know, I know," Lüdecke replies. "The television series *Die Zwei.* The American slang was untranslatable. So we had to produce some kind of German equivalent and the result was very different from the original, but still very successful.

"Even cinema films started using the same technique. But you have to remember that language is changing constantly, especially slang. Film producers all over the world know that it is mainly young people who go to the cinema and that their language is completely different from that of older people, who unfortunately do not go to the cinema.

"So when we are dubbing we have to translate American slang into the slang used by young Germans today."

Lüdecke has about 100 people on his staff and I asked him wehther he felt was more of businessman than a sensitive artist.

He said: "Of course I have to calculate, like any businessman. We are a wage-intensive organisation. Tapes account for only 2 per cent of our expenditure; the rest goes no energy and fees. The rates for actors who do the dubbing have risen enormously.

"It costs DM45,000 to synchronise a normal film these days. And big films — big in terms of the cast — can cost up to DM70,000.

In the case of these big films, sample takes of the German speakers have to be sent. The director then listens to them and he may then come to the dubbing studios in Berlin and decide to change something in the original. All this costs time and therefore money. The influence of foreign producers on the lucrative German market has also grown, as has the interest of directors.

Despite this, Lüdecke does not regard himself primarily as a businessman. "I don't know how I should describe my job: producer, foreign-language director, or dubbing director. But it is a job which requires artistic commitment at all events.

"I aim to produce quality. This is not a factory, I treat every film individually. For every film which I dub into German I have speakers with a flair for certain film genres, voices for Humphrey Bogart and Dustin Hoffman, people who know exactly which foreign film can best be translated into German by which author."

Team work and organisational talent are absolutely essential. He has to make sure that he has the right people for the right film and that they are available to do the dubbing.

And artistic attention to detail is necessary of the end product is to be of high quality. And Lüdecke insists on

Continued on page 12

■ HEALTH

Young motorcyclists help swell rising road injury statistics

Serious injuries from road accidents have increased dramatically over the past 15 years.

This is because traffic is heavier, cars are faster and there are more motorcycles on the road.

Young motorcyclists are particularly in danger. They are badly injured in a disproportionate number of cases.

It was against this background that the 97th Congress of German Surgeons was convened in Munich. Its theme was multiple injuries and bone fractures.

The polytrauma (as the medical profession calls severe multiple injuries) involves numerous potentially fatal injuries. The mortality rate in such cases is around 20 per cent and thus higher than in any other type of injury. At the same time, hospitals have been registering a steady increase of such cases.

The Surgical Department of the Bonn University Clinic has kept detailed records of its emergency ward cases.

These records, presented at the Congress, show that 85 per cent of motorbike drivers involved in accidents are less than 25 years old and 65 per cent are under 20.

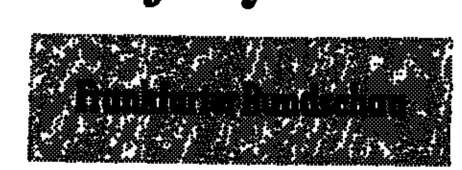
The Bonn Clinic treated 154 motorbike drivers between 1975 and 1979 with a total of 367 different injuries, each of which separately would have required hospitalisation.

Broken legs topped the list of injuries, followed by skull and brain damage, broken arms and chest and abdominal injuries; 13 of the 154 accident cases died in hospital — mostly from brain damage, circulatory collapse and kidney failure.

The average disability extended over 25 weeks; 40 per cent of the cases were partly disabled for life and many had to undergo long-term rehabilitation treatment. Statistically, the 154 patients have lost more than 62 years in working time.

Polytrauma cases are first delivered to the surgical clinic which is faced with the difficult task of coordinating its work with such specialised departments as neurology, internal medicine, urology, etc.

"Progressive specialisation has provid-



ed so many specialised fields as to make inter-disciplinary cooperation both increasingly necessary and increasingly difficult," said one of the delegates.

The gist of the papers read was that no department should try to do everything on its own — especially in cases of polytrauma.

The integration of various disciplines in the treatment of such cases cannot, however, be a matter for "democratic decision making processes" because speed is of the essence.

"The more disciplines are involved in the therapy plan the more important it is to have a centralised and streamlined organisation and a meaningful graduated therapy plan as well as an efficient post-operative intensive car," said Professor Schweiberer of the Surgical University Clinic in Homburg/Saar.

All specialised disciplines have to subjugate themselves to this graduated therapy plan which extends from the restoration of the circulatory and respiratory system via surgery all the way to the treatment of haemorrhaging and the subsequent treatment of lesser injuries.

Initially, the treating surgeon is in charge of all this. But in the post-operative phase he turns the patient over to a team of specialists for further treatment.

Here, prophylactic and long-term respiratory treatment is in the foreground. This artificial respiration has been instrumental in reducing the death rate in the past few years by about 10 per cent.

It has also helped to prevent embolisms which are particularly prevalent with multiple fractures.

The delegates agreed that the surgical treatment of such fractures must not be seen as an alternative but as a supplement to conservative fracture treatment.

Surgeons still differ on a number of points about intensive care. For decades, newly operated patients with critical injuries were placed in a special ward with round-the-clock medical attendance.

But, as intensive care became increasingly sophisticated through modern equipment, this special ward became the domain of the anaesthetist, who looks after respiration, inhalation therapy and the lung functions. Other disciplines have only an advisory function here.

Many surgeons object to this, saying that complications in a surgery patient can only be detected by an experienced surgeon — a specialised knowledge which the anaesthetist does not have.

"If the condition of a patient in such a ward deteriorates, he has another tube inserted through one orifice or another," said one delegate.

Delegates were clearly divided in two camps. While the one group wanted surgical intensive care to remain the responsibility of surgeons the other saw its future in intensive care under the anaesthetist's supervision, though other disciplines should have an equal say.

The establishment of a specialised field for intensive care medicine was rejected in Munich. The delegates felt that further specialisation should be stopped.

Closer co-operation must be achieved

But, as in all other medical congresses, there was full agreement that cooperation between the various disciplines must be improved.

"We have come closer together," said the chairman of the congress, Professor Georg Heberer.

The need for such close links is particularly felt among surgeons; among other things because of the rising number of lawsuits.

Surgeons top the list of arbitration cases — largely because success and failure are most easily distinguishable in surgery.

Professor Gert Carstensen told his colleagues not to shirk the necessary risk but to shirk the avoidable one. A doctor, he said, should know his limits and hand a case over to a colleague if he feels that his experience does not suffice.

Professor Carstensen: "A doctor need not know everything. But he must know what he does not know."

Helga Beyersdörfer

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 24 May 1980)

More reach for unprescribed palliatives

Three-quarters of Germany's young people between 14 and 19 regularly take drugs that have not been prescribed, says a study by the University of Münster.

The main culprits are the parents: children see their parents reach for a pill at the drop of a hat or when they feel depressed.

According to polls conducted by the Centre for Health Information in Bonn, 13 per cent of Germans regularly take at least seven different types of drugs a year.

Seven per cent believe that they cannot manage without tranquillisers and digestive pills of all kinds.

(Welt am Sonntag, 1 June 1980)

Film dubbing industry

Continued from page 11

quality, not only because it is what his customers want.

Lüdecke, son of a painter, is, in his own words, a "failed" actor. He was playwright at the old Ufa studios and since 1945 he has been successful not only in the dubbing business. In the fifties he also produced films: *Die Halbstarken* (with Horst Buchholz, whom he discovered), *Endstation Liebe, Nasser Asphalt* (with Martin Held). No mean achievements.

But Lüdecke, a highly educated man with a flair for films, is in his early sixties now and no longer interested in producing films. His reasons are precise.

"Look, this ashtray here costs DM10 to produce. Not many people like it, so it has to be sold for only DM5. Other products have to make up the difference. The same applies to films. Of course one gets subsidies. But I am not satisfied with subsidised articles. That is why I no longer produce films."

"Even though the film business is becoming more profitable?"

"This is true, thanks largely to the Americans. They make films which really pull in the crowds. One good film can finance two or three average US films.

"Balancing risks for them, unlike for us, is not itself a risk."

Klaus Hebecker

(Die Welt, 29 May 1980)

A link betwe[en] environment and child dea[ths]

Forty per cent of child d[eaths are] caused through accidents.

But, contrary to the widely he[ld ...] most of these accidents are n[ot ...] traffic.

They are from other causes du[... lei]sure hours.

There is a close link between [ac]cident rate and the social situ[ation of] the children and the stresses [...] exposed to at school and in the [...].

A study entitled "The Family [...] cial Situation of Children [...] Accidents" reviewed the case hist[ories of] 100 children admitted to the [...] University Clinic in Lübeck for t[reat]ment following accidents.

For the purpose of the stu[dy the] children were divided into two [groups:] those who had not had an accid[ent be]fore and those who had had [...] accidents.

The children and parents were [ques]tioned on the accident itself [...] possible conflicts and tensions [...] the child and people in its enviro[nment]. In addition, the children underwe[nt psy]chological tests.

According to an article in the *Ne[...] Tribune*, children who have had [...] accidents were subject to more [...] and conflict at home than the other[s].

In one out of four cases the ac[ci]dent was preceded by such events a[s ...] or death of relatives or major [...] tional change on the part of the pa[rents].

In seven cases, the accident wa[s pre]ceded by family conflicts such [as ...] separation of the parents.

One in three of children who ha[d] more than one accident lived in a [...] with only one parent. The national av[e]rage is one in 12.

The mood of the children with [...] one parent was much more depressed: the day of the accident than was [...] case with children from complete [fa]milies. In the time preceding the acci[dent] these children had experienced [...] changes in the family sector [...] often as their counterparts from [com]plete families.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 11 May [1980])

Lead pollution 'affecting the intellect'

Growing lead pollution in the [Ruhr] area, has evidently caused [...] harm to children, says the [...] zine *Umschau in Wissenschaft [und] Technik*.

In an article, Professor Hans-W[...] Schlipköter reports about increase[d] concentration in children's teeth [...] region. This finding is at odds [with a] statement by North Rhine-Westph[alia] Labour Minister who said in [...] that no harmful effects from p[ollution] had been found in the Ruhr area.

Professor Schlipköter and his [...] examined 5,000 children in five d[istricts] around the Rhine and Ruhr [...] which they compared with a rura[l con]trol area.

They found an impairment of [...] intellectual performance and the [...] to recognise patterns.

This, they concluded, was a c[lear in]dication of reduced neuropsycho[logical] performance due to lead intake [in] childhood.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 15 May [1980])

■ BEHAVIOUR

Playground violence begs social questions



The cause of school violence can partly be answered by looking closely at the conditions in which children live. Problems are often worst where socially weak families are brought in and mixed with the existing population.

This transfer of population has happened, for example in Frankfurt, where accommodation for homeless families has been closed.

The director of a day centre for children in one area affected by an influx said: "Most problems occur in areas where high-rise flats were built in the middle of otherwise intact areas."

Everyone is talking about the trend towards violence among children. The *Land* government in Hesse, replying to a CDU question on the increase of violence in schools, said that the situation in Hesse was no different from that in other *Länder*, as a study had shown.

This study asked children themselves about violence in schools. Its conclusion: "The brutality and perversity of the attacks on fellow pupils is frightening." The authors speak of "unmistakable violent, sadistic and criminal tendencies".

"Where in the past children merely used to have harmless "bundles", today the fights often end with dangerous injuries, broken bones, smashed teeth, damage to eyesight."

A teacher from the Helene Lange school in Frankfurt told me that before the Easter holidays some twelve and thirteen-year old boys and girls attacked fellow pupils with red-hot pieces of metal.

Another teacher told me that she was not looking forward to taking her class on trips and walks because the last time she did so she could only stand by amazed and helpless and "watch them beating one another's faces into a pulp."

In the socially underprivileged areas of Frankfurt and especially in the notorious blocks of high-rise flats where hundreds of families are crammed into small spaces, peace is more unusual than war at schools.

A teacher at the Ebelfeldschule in Praunheim said there were bloody fights between kids there every day. Another teacher at Rebstöcker school said that fights and rows there were part of their daily bread.

She said that even the headmaster there had been attacked. She said there were constant fights, even in the lessons. "The pupils lose self control. They are blind with rage."

During breaks they are surrounded by high concrete walls and all they can do is stand around.



Does this stem from living conditions?
(Photo: Marianne von der Lancken)

Seven-year-old Kolja, for example, knows what this means: "The second years attack the first years, the fourth years attack the third years".

This is because: "They can't think of anything else to do, they're not interested in the climbing frame any more."

Their environment provides them with no opportunities for movement, play, adventure.

Their need for activity turns into aggression: they attack one another with broken bottles or with school chairs or they use bullying techniques which would make their peers laugh but frighten younger pupils: "Give me the money or I'll burn you with this cigerette lighter."

Claudia Michels

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 29 May 1980)

Accent placed on therapy for addicts

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Bonn has agreed to use therapy rather than punishment in the treatment of drug addicts.

The Ministries of Health, the Interior and Justice have agreed on a scheme whereby those convicted of drug offences will not have to serve their sentences if they successfully complete a course of therapy.

Justice Minister Hans Jochen Vogel also agreed to the proposal strongly urged by Health Minister Antje Huber that state prosecutors should drop cases against drug offenders if they agreed to therapy.

It was, however, agreed that these measures would only apply if the probable sentence were not more than two years imprisonment, a Health Ministry spokesman stressed.

Frau Huber's original proposal that the offender should not only be let off prison but also not receive a conviction, was not accepted. The offender will be sentenced, but will not have to go to prison.

Another proposal by Frau Huber — that addicts should be given a second chance if this therapy failed — was rejected by the Justice Ministry.

Addicts who fail in therapy will now have to sit out their sentences. *ddp*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 21 May 1980)

Teachers help in new war on drugs

Nearly every school in Frankfurt — 140 out of 144 — now has a teacher who deals especially with drug problems.

His job is to inform pupils, parents and colleagues about these problems and help pupils.

A drugs expert in the Frankfurt education office is to co-ordinate an anti-drug campaign in the schools.

The campaign will be conducted with teaching materials developed by a group of teachers, educational psychologists and advisers from drug centres.

Frankfurt education officer Bernhard Mihm told a press conference: "We don't just want to help kids with drugs' problems, we also wish to prevent them turning to drugs."

The Frankfurt education office does not believe that horror stories telling of addicts careers and deaths do not help. This is because children and adolescents could not in most cases identify with the addicts.

Their response to films of this kind was: "That can't happen to me." The emphasis of anti-drugs teaching should be to increase pupils' self respect or to "rehabilitate" their damaged image of themselves.

Preventive measures would have to include not only rational information on the effects of drugs. In sociology and biology, the subject of drugs should be taught in conjunction with teaching units sich as "advertising and manipulation", using leisure time," my body", "people as consumers," and "food and health."

Pupils should also be taught to resist temptation and pressure, to learn to say no.

Staff meetings have since been held at schools in which the drug specialists on the staff have provided their colleagues with information and teaching materials.

Special parent-teacher evenings on the subject have also been held. Cooperation with drug advisory centres has proved extremely fruitful and is to be intensified.

Schools are not market places for hard drugs but the problem is "indisputably very great." Alcohol consumption among youngsters in particular had increased and was the number one addiction problem. The number of primary school pupils in danger was also increasing, it was said. *Jutta Stössinger*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 19 May 1980)

■ MODERN LIVING

Phantom stories of love land man in court

A 30-year-old man made up stories about non-existent affairs with other women because his wife constantly needed to be jealous, a Nuremberg court was told.

His wife had then complained about the "affairs" to neighbours and was sued for defamation and slander at an earlier hearing.

When the man corroborated his wife's tales of his adultery at her trial, he was immediately arrested and himself charged with defamation.

"My wife enjoyed nothing better than being jealous and there was no living with her unless she felt she had some ground or other for jealousy," he told the Nuremberg hearing.

He was a goldsmith by trade and every evening after work was interrogated by his wife about the sparkling necklaces he had draped around beautiful women's necks.

Karin, his wife, insisted on being told more and was convinced Johann must have made love to most, if not all of them, as well.

It was no use denying it, he told the court, so he had to exert his tired imagination and invent one tale after another to satisfy his wife's curiosity.

He even switched jobs and became a van driver for the sake of peace and quiet, but his wife was even more convinced that as a delivery man he would be cornered by every green widow in the book.

It was out of the frying pan into the fire and he had no choice but tell his wife about all those women who had dragged him into their apartments or forced him to make love to them in stairwells and cellars.

Before long there was not a woman in the vicinity with whom he had not allegedly committed adultery or had sexual relations.

His wife was not content to keep this "information" to herself. She complained bitterly to the neighbours about the "other women." He had to give evidence in court.

"Yes", he told the earlier court, looking anxiously in his wife's direction, "I have known the plaintiff for years and often been in her apartment." He was arrested on the spot.

This time he was in the dock himself and explained to the court in detail how he had been obilged by his wife to cast himself a "a swine and an adulterer" and invent fairly credible tales to satisfy her curiosity.

The bench showed understanding for his plight and believed him when he said that in reality nothing had ever happened. He was given a suspended sentence of nine months on the ground that his wife had forced him to perjure himself.

He was not fined because he was deep in debt in any case, not only because he had spent time in custody but also because his wife had been fined heavily for defamation.

But it won't happen again. He has left his wife and is suing for divorce.

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 28 May 1980)

Squabbles end election hope of Women's Party

Germany's Women's Party was formed in September last year with the aim of fighting the general election.

But the only fight they have had so far is among themselves.

When the party was formed, co-founder Edith Rath, 49, a divorced mother of three and former SPD member, said: "This spells the end of male power."

Originally, Frau Rath wanted to stand for the parliamentary elections in October. But now, only four months before the elections, the party is so disunited that even the courts have been involved.

"It was all pretty chaotic", admits Frau Rath.

Yet there was nothing but harmony at the constituent session.

The party was rather tolerant regarding men and the 26 founding members even permitted two to join, saying that the Constitution permitted no discrimination on the grounds of sex.

Sibylle Helferich became the first chairman and Frau Rath the secretary-general. The seat of the party was Kiel.

But the troubles came quickly. At first the wrangle was over the statutes and the party programme, and then over men.

One group around Frau Helferich demanded that the party be purged of men while Eva Rath and her followers wanted to stay open to them.

"The discussion over this set us back many months", says Frau Rath.

The next phase saw the party members in court. Frau Helferich wanted a temporary injunction against her secretary-general, demanding that the card index of the 100 members he handed over to her.

The court rejected the suit on April 30 on the grounds that the party was not a legally constituted body.

But Deputy Chairman Kerssenbrook of the Helferich faction is adamant that they are a proper political party and intends to prove so in another court hearing.

Meanwhile, Frau Rath's faction has gone into action. It hastily summoned an arbitration committee which expelled 14 members for actions damaging to the party. Among them almost the complete executive committee of the first: man.

Says the expelled chairman, Fr. ferich: "They've gone crazy."

And Frau Kerssenbrook speaks "pathological hunger for power."

Werner
(Welt am Sonntag, 1 Ju

Prison officers' naked truth

West Berlin prison officers who apply for promotion have to answer queries about their love life.

Justice Senator Gerhard M. Meyer has admitted in answer to a parliamentary question that they are required to take a psychological test in questionnaire form.

Question No. 34 involves assessing their sexual prowess.

They have to tick one of seven options in answer to the question. But Herr Meyer dismissed as mistaken the fear voiced by Christian Democratic assemblyman Jürgen Adler that promotion might in some way be dependent on the applicant's sexual prowess.

There were 40 questions in the questionnaire and they were designed to allow the applicant to present a picture of himself in his own view and thereby convey an idea of his state of mind and relationship with his environment.

dpa
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 4 June 1980)

DM 5 pieces hot from the jail mint

Hanover police could hardly b[...] their eyes when they disco[...] fully-equipped forger's workshop i[...] nover jail.

The investigation came as the [...] of an informant's tip-off that DM5 [...] were being produced.

When the story broke they [...] unable even to hazard a guess as t[...] many counterfeit DM5 coins had [...] brought into circulation from the c[...] a 43-year-old convict.

The convict, who was serving a [...]tence for theft, had allegedly appli[...] do art work during his spare time [...] was given permission to cast figur[...] and fashion pictures out of copper.

Instead he forged coins. He has [...] been transferred to investigative cus[...]

Dies, melting pots and other for[...] utensils were been found conceale[...] his cell.

The police also discovered a few [...]ed coins that an experienced offic[...] scribed as "pretty good imitation" [...] reckoned they were good enough [...] muster as the real thing at a glance.

A detailed report has been comm[...]ssioned from a leading bank that has [...] expertise to assess the quality of t[...] forgeries. The police were, however, [...] on one point: The counterfeit coins [...] good enough for any slot machine.

In order to provide himself with [...] the convict had fashioned other obj[...] including horse's heads and the bust [...] Nefertiti, including the requi[...] moulds.

The moulds for his coins were [...]cealed under those for his horse's h[...] and bust of the Ancient Egyptian que[...]

There were not only forger's tools [...] the cell, also files and spokes, drills, [...] and flammable liquids. He had wo[...] in a prison workshop and there s[...] the items one after the other.

How he managed to smuggle [...] into his cell is still a mystery. He [...] had a radio with which he could [...] only receive but also transmit. [...] being examined by Bundespost expe[...]

During a routine emergency sear[...] Celle jail police also made a number o[...] unexpected discoveries, according to [...] spokesman for the Lower Saxon Jus[...] Ministry in Hanover.

A bullet was found in one prisoner['s] sock, while spot searches of other [...] brought to light four radios tuned in [...] police radio frequencies.

There were also small saws, hom[e-]made batons, tablets, two chillums a[nd] several hundred marks in cash.

The search was restricted to the o[...] section of the prison. It did not exten[d] to the top security wing where partic[u]larly dangerous convicts are housed.

They are subject to special sec[urity] checks in any case.

Josef Schmi[...]
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 24 May 1[980])

■ SPORT

Breitner always ready with war of words

In the first flush of victory soccer stars are given to stripping down to their shorts and making someone a present of their jerseys.

Paul Breitner, captain of Bayern Munich, can hardly be blamed for having done so after the away win at Stuttgart that, coupled with SV Hamburg's 2-1 defeat at the hands of Leverkusen, made the Bundesliga First Division championship title a virtual certainty.

He faced the TV cameras in Stuttgart with an ear-to-ear grin and what would almost certainly have been a topless smile too, if such a thing existed.

It was to be Bayern's first championship title for six years. Six years ago Breitner quit Bayern, a nouveau riche club, as he put it, to play for Real Madrid, a member of European soccer's aristocracy.

In those days Franz Beckenbauer ruled in Munich, followed by goal-scoring ace Gerd Müller and goalie Sepp Maier. Then, arguably, came club chairman Wilhelm Neudecker.

Angry young Breitner was nowhere in the running and he was only too happy to quit. Bayern, he reckoned, were a lousy club who didn't even known how to celebrate a victory, and they had seen the last of him.

But they hadn't. What he has said in the course of his soccer career has not always been what he has gone on to do. He now considers Bayern a fine club, doubtless because he now is doing well there.

He has done a good job of it, it is only fair to add. Breitner has always been an unruly individual, hard to get on with, but he was the motive force behind the club's successful 1979/80 championship campaign.

Pushing 29, he is now an old hand and spent all season telling his younger team-mates they could make it. They nodded and took his words at face value. You may not like Breitner but you can hardly fail to respect him and what he has to say.

He is one of the rare breed of soccer "pros" whose names mean something to a wider public who otherwise know nothing about football and are not interested in learning.

He has hit the headlines almost as often as "Kaiser Franz" Beckenbauer, and that is saying something. Paul Breitner is a [...]ic figure, the exception to a rule, both a prototype and an antitype of the German soccer star.

His startling appearance has much to do with this image. He has a full head of long, curly hair and a flowing beard. In all his years in professional soccer no-one has been able to persuade him to part company with them.

The lion's mane does not adorn an empty head either. He is a soccer player with the reputation of being something of an intellectual.

In German soccer this is still considered somehow suspicious. Most soccer officials say he is a trouble-maker. Even many less spectacular players and a fair number of fans feel he is somehow worrisome.

At the age of 20 he made a name for himself by answering idiotic sports reporters' questions in a provocative manner.

Who is the person you most admire? "Mao," he replied. Whose work are you reading at present? "Marx." What would you most like to see happen? "The United States to be defeated in Vietnam."

This was the beginning of a legend, the legend of Paul Breitner the firebrand Red, a left-wing fullback from Freilassing, Bavaria.

In reality he nver took Mao, Marxism or Socialism seriously — at least, no more seriously than any young man with a healthy interest in politics.

Yet he was stuck with the image of being a disciple of Chairman Mao — even when he went in for fast cars and bought himself a Maserati.

Asked whether he was a rebel and if so, why, he once answered: "I am only trying to be an individual who does what he and his family feel like doing."

But he is not such an innocent as this comment might suggest. Breitner has been known to let off steam in a most unpleasant manner.

Officialdom is an obvious target. When sports officials celebrate, he once said, they only ever celebrate themselves. For an official nothing is ever more important than an official.

He is not sparing in his criticism of former members of the country's international soccer squad either, accusing them of being fellow-travellers, yes-men and lily-livered pussyfooters who wouldn't say boo to a goose.

And Breitner can still not resist the temptation to provoke. In a recent issue of *Penthouse*, a magazine that usually concentrates on giving the fair sex full frontal treatment, he pontificated on the shortcomings of soccer referees.

He didn't mince words. They were all scared, he said, and wanted merely to put themselves across and exercise power over others.

They were as vain as peacocks and had no idea of the finer points of modern soccer. In other words, they were boneheads. All that was missing was a note to the effect that in games where Breitner is on the pitch referees are really superfluous.

No, Breitner can certainly not be accused of lacking self-confidence. He is not afraid of saying what he thinks, come what may. faultless manners take no-one to the top of the tree, he once pointed out.

This was a fairly obvious reference to Franz Beckenbauer at the time but Breitner's own behaviour while it is most effective on the pitch, tends to upset people off the field.

Yet he is very much the same person, true to himself. Take the decision he took in the World Cup final against Holland in Munich in 1974.

Holland were a goal ahead when Germany was awarded a penalty. Breitner had not been delegated the job of taking penalty shots but he strolled up to the penalty spot, put the ball in position and hammered it into the net before anyone had fully realised what was going on.



Paul Breitner
(Photo: Werek)

It was a crucial equaliser and Germany went on to win 2-1. Everyone else was shaking in his shoes, wondering who was going to be charged with the enormous responsibility of taking the penalty. Paul Breitner took responsibility into his own hands.

What if he had missed? "Then I would have been for the high jump," he says. He has often been in this position, so he should be able to cope with it.

He first stuck his neck out as a 17-year-old in his first international as a junior. Germany lost 4-1 but he scored the consolation goal.

He marched back into the changing room as proud as Punch, but there was no praise from the team officials. He was merely told to get his hair cut.

It must have been a traumatic experience. From that day on his hackles have risen every time he saw an official. He has never missed an opportunity of criticising officialdom for its outmoded approach to the game.

Past experience may well have been the reason why he has often overstepped the mark. His anger may have been warranted but not the tenor of his criticism, which was neither fair nor objective.

His friends all agree that Breitner is a sensitive person. Many of the things he does are in disappointed response to moves others make.

He may pooh-pooh the idea, but he would much prefer to be everyone's favourite. Indeed, he would probably relish being a national hero.

But he scotched any chances he might have stood in this direction when, in 1974, he not only left Bayern but also said he never wanted to play for his country again.

He half-wanted to call it a day but was also encouraged to do so. His departure from the international squad certainly deprived Germany of a soccer personality (something the scouts are currently scouring the country for), albeit a difficult one to live with.

He feels unfairly cast in the role of rebel. "I'm no revolutionary," he claims, but hastens to add: "I'm not going to let anyone forbid me to speak my mind."

In after-dinner speeches the playing staff are always referred to as men with (and entitled to) views of their own, but Beitner feels officialdom still does not take them seriously.

He has been most energetic in his demands for a say in the running of the club for the playing staff, and at Bayern he has been fairly successful.

At Bayern Munich, the 1980 Bundesliga champions, Paul Breitner certainly has his say, and what he says goes.

Aloys Behler
(Die Zeit, 6 June 1980)

Mass stays in top gear as the years roll by

Cologne's Jochen Mass, 33, took fourth place in the Monaco grand prix and was runner-up in the Spanish grand prix at Jarama.

The question is how he manages to stand the pace when there are so many up-and-coming drivers in grand prix racing.

Mass says he doesn't feel tired after a race. Only thirsty, he said after the Spanish event (won by Alan Jones of Australia) while swigging a bottle of beer brewed by his sponsor.

Mass is probably the fittest man on the circuit and he is certainly experienced enough to snatch success from what seem the most hopeless predicaments.

He still has trouble with a 1978 leg injury and on the first day's training for the Spanish grand prix he suffered from headaches caused by muscular tension under his right shoulder blade.

But he was in the peak of condition as he drove his Arrows car on the day. For fitness only Jody Scheckter, the reigning champion from South Africa, could possibly rival him.

"Never try to win a race on the first lap," Niki Lauda of Austria once said, and Mass could not agree more. This is how he accounts for his success at Jarama:

"The Spanish grand prix circuit makes heavy demands on both car and driver. Realising this, I must act accordingly. Providing training has proved satisfactory, my only objective in the race is to be in at the finish."

Nowadays Mass leaves it to younger drivers to go all out for victory. He echoes the sentiment of Juan Fangio,



Jochen Mass
(Photo: Wilfried Witters)

the Argentinian world champion of the 50s, who once said:

"Always drive as fast as you can but never faster than absolutely necessary."

At the beginning of the Formula 1 season, in South America for the Argentine grand prix, it first looked as though his Arrows A 3 might do well this year.

In Spain he showed how careful and conscientious he can be and what the result is: "At Jarama I never drove too close to the man in front; otherwise, I would have deprived my brakes and engine of the cooling effect of the head wind.

"And when I noticed that as the rear

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